



BY STREAMS OF LIVING WATER

A Six-Part Worship Series on the Psalms

2. Duty & Delight

Pastor David Flowers

Sermon Series Focus

For the most profound and enduring prayers of all time, both Christians and Jews look to the Psalms.

These timeless writings become our words when we have none. With vivid word pictures that capture our imagination, and in the beautiful artistry of the language, we will discover that the Psalms are empowering for faith as we learn to sing and pray them together in sincere devotion to God.

Sermon Series Purpose

- Deepen our individual and corporate prayer lives through the reading and study of the Psalms, as well as expand our appreciation for biblical literature
- Understand and experience a wider variety of personal and corporate prayer (e.g. desire, praise, confession, lament, justice, thanksgiving, etc.)
- Rediscover the power of faith that is not meant to be solely expressed intellectually, but emotionally as well; seeing that music, art, ritual, and passion are holy

Psalm 1:1-3 NIV

¹ Blessed is the one

who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
or sit in the company of mockers,

² but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
and who meditates on his law day and night.

³ That person is like **a tree planted by streams of water**, which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
whatever they do prospers.

Psalm 1:4-6 NIV

⁴ Not so the wicked!

They are like chaff
that the wind blows away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

⁶ For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

By Streams of Living Water

1. Soul Thirst (desire & longing)
2. **Duty & Delight** (praise & gratitude)
3. Clean Hearts (confession & renewal)
4. Tears of Lament (disorientation & lament)
5. Rains of Justice (vengeance & vindication)
6. Giving Thanks (thanksgiving & hope)

Duty & Delight

- In the words of the Westminster Catechism, praise is “our duty and delight” in life. The Psalms are filled with praise and worship, and we are encouraged to praise God, not only with our lips, but also with our lives.
- In this message I want to focus our attention on how passionate praise ought to be a natural response to God’s saving work in our lives. I’d like to challenge us to reflect on God’s work in us, past and present.
- If God is enthroned on our praises (Ps.22:3), how high is he being exalted in our lives and through our church? Does our praise reflect his true glory?

Psalm 30:1-3 NIV

- ¹ I will exalt you, LORD,
for you lifted me out of the depths
and did not let my enemies gloat over me.
- ² LORD my God, I called to you for help,
and you healed me.
- ³ You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of the dead;
you spared me from going down to the pit.

Psalm 30:8-12 NIV

⁸ To you, LORD, I called;
to the Lord I cried for mercy:

⁹ “What is gained if I am silenced,
if I go down to the pit?

Will the dust praise you?

Will it proclaim your faithfulness?

¹⁰ Hear, LORD, and be merciful to me;
LORD, be my help.”

¹¹ You turned my wailing into dancing;
you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,
¹² that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.
LORD my God, I will praise you forever.

“Gratitude is rooted in and an expression of human subjectivity, and insofar as gratitude is also a human responsibility, a response to God’s summons, it is an act that human beings can choose or refuse. But in turning away from gratitude toward God, human beings turn away from who they truly are, what they are called to be and to do, and become something less.”

Brueggemann & Bellinger, *Psalms* (pg.154)
New Cambridge Bible Commentary

Psalm 40:1-3 NIV

¹ I waited patiently for the LORD;
he turned to me and heard my cry.

² He lifted me out of the slimy pit,
out of the mud and mire;
he set my feet on a rock
and gave me a firm place to stand.

³ He put a new song in my mouth,
a hymn of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear the LORD
and put their trust in him.

Psalm 40:1-3 MSG

¹⁻³ I waited and waited and waited for GOD.

At last he looked; finally he listened.

He lifted me out of the ditch,
pulled me from deep mud.

He stood me up on a solid rock
to make sure I wouldn't slip.

He taught me how to sing the latest God-song,
a praise-song to our God.

More and more people are seeing this:
they enter the mystery,
abandoning themselves to GOD.

Psalm 52:8-9 NIV

⁸ But I am like an olive tree
flourishing in the house of God;
I trust in God's unfailing love
for ever and ever.

⁹ For what you have done I will always praise you
in the presence of your faithful people.
And I will hope in your name,
for your name is good.

“Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.”

Psalm 34:8 NIV



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Sermon audio & slides in PDF can be downloaded at:
www.christiansburgmennonite.org