

## ***Digging Deeper on the Message***

# ***“Lord, Do Remember Me”***

## ***Psalms 25 -***

The Psalms can be approached in so many different ways. This particular Psalm divides nicely under the R.A.P categories. Resolve, Affirmation and Petition appear all through the song. Not accounting for the Hebrew poetry factor, which often repeats similar thoughts in differing words, I identified 16 resolves, 13 affirmations and 18 petitions scattered throughout this Psalm.

*These categories can be found in many of the Psalms. Most of the time they appear randomly throughout the Psalm. Try identifying the categories in another Psalm.*

*I gathered all the verses of Psalm 25 under these three categories.*

### **RESOLVE -- David's desire to trust God alone**

Since David began with resolve, I want to explore his resolves first and then the affirmations of truth that stimulated the resolves and inspired the petitions.

David expressed his personal action throughout the song.

*To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in YOU I trust... Psalm 25:1-2*

Lift up is another way of saying, Lord I appeal to you or give my attention to you. I trust in You. You are the object of my trust.

*I wait for YOU. Psalm 25:21*

*For YOU I wait all the day. Psalm 25:5*

The term “wait” goes deeper than waiting around wishing something will happen. It indicates a certain expectation that God will act in His way and His time and I continue on in the present anticipating God's appearance in the future. To wait is to hope.

*My eyes are continually toward the LORD... Psalm 25:15*

David actively focused on the Lord.

*I take refuge in YOU. Psalm 25:20*

David affirmed his commitment to find refuge in the Lord. He considered God as his place to go when in trouble. God was the place to find peace and solitude.

*I wait for YOU. Psalm 25:21*

David started and finished his song with a resolve to put his hope and trust in God.

This reminds me of the song “In Christ Alone”.

*In Christ alone my hope is found He is my light my strength my song*

*This Cornerstone this solid Ground Firm through the fiercest drought and storm*

*What heights of love what depths of peace When fears are stilled when strivings cease*

*My Comforter my All in All Here in the love of Christ I stand*

The common thread between these resolves is not too difficult to discern. David clearly identifies the object of his trust and his active trust in God alone. The verbs are instructive; lift up, trust, wait, take refuge, wait. He clearly reveals that his focus is on Yahweh. He did not trust other gods, himself, other people, Mother Nature, luck, fate, the “man upstairs”, his riches or health, or earthly inheritance. His trust fully focused on the great “I AM” the God of the universe, his God.

This was a common resolve in many of David's songs.

*"Where does my help come from? My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth. Psalm 121:2*

*Following are some other Psalms that express the same sentiment and resolve.*

*Be gracious to me, O Lord, For to You I cry all day long. Make glad the soul of Your servant, For to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You. Psalm 86:3-5*

*But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD, I say, "You are my God." My times are in Your hand; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies and from those who persecute me. Make Your face to shine upon Your servant; Save me in Your lovingkindness. Psalm 31:14-16*

*Let me hear Your lovingkindness in the morning; For I trust in You; Teach me the way in which I should walk; For to You I lift up my soul. Psalm 143:8*

*To You I lift up my eyes, O You who are enthroned in the heavens! Behold, as the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, As the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, So our eyes look to the LORD our God, Until He is gracious to us. Be gracious to us, O LORD, be gracious to us, For we are greatly filled with contempt. Psalm 123:1-3*

*Our soul waits for the LORD; He is our help and our shield. Psalm 33:20*

*"And now, Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in You. Psalm 39:7 Notice the parallel usage of wait and hope.*

*My soul waits in silence for God only; From Him is my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken. Psalm 62:1-2*

*My soul, wait in silence for God only, For my hope is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be shaken. On God my salvation and my glory rest; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. Psalm 62:5-7*

*The Psalmist's waiting was not always pleasant.*

*I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched; My eyes fail while I wait for my God. Psalm 69:3*

*I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, And in His word do I hope. My soul waits for the Lord More than the watchmen for the morning; Indeed, more than the watchmen for the morning. O Israel, hope in the LORD; For with the LORD there is lovingkindness, And with Him is abundant redemption. And He will redeem Israel From all his iniquities. Psalm 130:5-8*

Of course there are numerous occurrences of the idea of God as our refuge.

*O LORD my God, in You I have taken refuge; Save me from all those who pursue me, and deliver me, Psalm 7:1*

*Preserve me, O God, for I take refuge in You. I said to the LORD, "You are my Lord; I have no good besides You." Ps 16:1-2*

*God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change And though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea; Though its waters roar and foam, Though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. Selah. Psalm 46:1-3*

*Hear my cry, O God; Give heed to my prayer. From the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For You have been a refuge for me, A tower of strength against the enemy. Let me dwell in Your tent forever; Let me take refuge in the shelter of Your wings. Selah. Psalm 61:1-4*

*I will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!" Psalm 91:2*

*He will cover you with His pinions, And under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark. Psa 91:4  
For you have made the LORD, my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place. Psalm 91:9*

*Actually Psalm 91 is a great Psalm of comfort in times of trouble. These Resolves all come in the midst of struggle. They are declarations of what David decides to do in spite of what He is feeling.*

*The Theme of deliverance also appears multiple times throughout the Psalms. Here are a few.*

*Therefore, let everyone who is godly pray to You in a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters they will not reach him. You are my hiding place; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah. Psalm 32:6-7*

*How blessed is he who considers the helpless; The LORD will deliver him in a day of trouble. Psalm 41:1*

*O God, hasten to deliver me; O LORD, hasten to my help! Psalm 70:1*

He expressed a concentrated focus on God to bring about deliverance. He expressed his intention to rely on God's protection. Who or what do we trust? What is our hope? What are we waiting for God to do?

## **AFFIRMATION – David's understanding of God**

The motivation to trust God alone flowed out of David's understanding of God. This Psalm thoroughly affirms many of God's attributes.

David wonderfully represents the object of his trust and hope.

The reason I continually fix my eyes on the Lord...

The reason I lift my soul...

The reason I wait all day and every day...

The reason I take refuge...

...IS because of the character of the one I trust.

David employed two foundational names for God; Yahweh and Elohim.

- **He is the eternal self-existent covenant making and keeping God**
- **He is the great, supreme, Almighty God**
- **He will never let those who trust Him suffer shame.**

*Indeed, none of those who wait for You will be ashamed 25:3a*

David affirmed that those who trust God are not shamed.

The same described here has to do with the feeling that comes from losing or being bullied or conquered.

*In You our fathers trusted; they trusted and You delivered them. To You they cried out and were delivered; in You they trusted and were not disappointed. 22:4-5  
For the Scripture says, "WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." Romans 10:11*

- **He likewise will deal with those who don't trust in Him.**

*Those who deal treacherously without cause will be ashamed. 25:3b*

David often affirmed that even though the wicked appear to be getting away with their treachery here and now, they will eventually "face the music".

- **He saves.**

*You are the God of my salvation...25:5*

*The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the defense of my life; Whom shall I dread? Ps 27:1*

*The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; This is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will extol Him. The LORD is a warrior; The LORD is His name. Exodus 15:2-3*

The term salvation occurs 157 times not including the term save or savior.

David was confident that the God in whom he put his trust can and does SAVE.

*Salvation belongs to the LORD; Your blessing be upon Your people! Selah. Psalm 3:8*

*The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock; And exalted be the God of my salvation, Psalm 18:46*

*My soul, wait in silence for God only, For my hope is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be shaken. On God my salvation and my glory rest; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. Psalm 62:5-7*

*Sing to the LORD a new song; Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day. Tell of His glory among the nations, His wonderful deeds among all the peoples. For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. Psalm 96:1-4*

- **He has demonstrated His mercy and lovingkindness from the start.**

*Remember, O LORD, Your compassion and Your lovingkindnesses, For they have been from of old. 25:6*

David affirms here that demonstrating compassion and love is not just a new thing but a foundational attribute of God.

*Many think that the Old Testament portrays God as a God of wrath. Really there are many more passages that illustrate and declare His lovingkindness.*

- **He is good and upright (just, righteous).**

*Good and upright is the LORD... 25:8*

David knew from the story of Moses of the goodness of God.

*Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations." Exodus 34:6-7*

- **He freely provides direction and instruction and insight**

*He instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in justice, And He teaches the humble His way. Psalm 25:8-9*

*The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him, and He will make them know His covenant. Psalm 25:14*

*Who is the man who fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way he should choose. Psalm 25:12*

David affirmed that God was a speaking God. God clearly communicates His person and will in the scriptures.

*Just the word "teach" appears over 25 times in the psalms and over 100 times in the Bible. That does not then account for the other words used to indicate some sort of instruction.*

*Teach me Your way, O LORD, And lead me in a level path Because of my foes. Psalm 27:11*

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you. Do not be as the horse or as the mule which have no understanding, Whose trappings include bit and bridle to hold them in check, Otherwise they will not come near to you. Psalm 32:8-9*

*Let me hear Your lovingkindness in the morning; For I trust in You; Teach me the way in which I should walk; For to You I lift up my soul. Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies; I take refuge in You. Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground. Psalm 143:8-10*

- **He always acts with love and truth.**

*All the paths of the LORD are lovingkindness and truth to those who keep His covenant and His testimonies. Psalm 25:10*

- **He rewards those who fear Him.**

*The soul of those who trust God will abide in prosperity, and his descendants will inherit the land. Psalm 25:13*

This is a central tenant of faith.

*And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. Hebrews 11:6*  
*The concept of reward is found often throughout the scripture. Following are just a few of the passages if you choose to follow the trail.*

*Moreover, by your words Your servant is warned; In keeping them there is great reward. Psalm 19:11*

*The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD Are riches, honor and life. Proverbs 22:4*

*"Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matt 5:11-12*

*"For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? Matthew 5:46*  
*Matt 6:1-6 mentions reward numerous times.*

*"He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me. "He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. "And whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones even a cup of cold water to drink, truly I say to you, he shall not lose his reward." Matthew 10:40-42*

*"But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for He Himself is kind to ungrateful and evil men. Luke 6:35*

*1 Corinthians 3:6-15 specifies what qualifies for reward.*

*Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. Colossians 3:23-24*

*By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward. Hebrews 11:24-26*

*Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. 2 John 1:8*

*"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. Revelation 22:12*

- **He rescues those who look to Him.**

*My eyes are continually toward the LORD, For He will pluck my feet out of the net. Psalm 25:15*

*The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them. O taste and see that the LORD is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him! Psalm 34:7-8*

The Psalms overflow with such affirmations of God's person and works. Usually such meditation on God's person that transforms David's depression into delight. Many times David breaks out into thanksgiving, adoration and praise after rehearsing the truths about God. He concluded this song with a patient waiting on God to act on his behalf.

## **PETITION – David asks God to intervene on his behalf.**

David feels free in his prayer to petition God to act in light of his view of God. He expressed his trust in God in spite of his depression, based on who God is. Remember, he was at a very low point in his life. There are no “historical markers” in the song to help us discover David’s particular circumstance or time in his life. All we know, is how he was feeling. Lost, fearful, abandoned and estranged, guilty, destitute, lonely, trapped, afflicted, overwhelmed, distressed, vulnerable, troubled. What does he ask God to do in the face of his current dark struggle? He lifts up at least 18 petitions or cries for God’s intervention.

- **He requested protection from his enemies.**

*Do not let me be ashamed; Do not let my enemies exult over me. Psalm 25:2*

David asks not to be shamed by reason of a defeat by the enemy.’ He does not want to suffer disillusionment or disgrace.

*Look upon my enemies, for they are many, and they hate me with violent hatred. Guard my soul and deliver me; Do not let me be ashamed, for I take refuge in You. Psalm 25:19-20*

*Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for You. Psalm 25:21*

- **He pleaded for deliverance.**

*Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. The troubles of my heart are enlarged; bring me out of my distresses. Look upon my affliction and my trouble...Psalm 25:16-18*

*Guard my soul and deliver me 25:20*

*The righteous cry, and the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. Psalm 34:17-19*

- **He begged for forgiveness.**

*Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions Psalm 25:7*

*For Your name’s sake, O LORD, pardon my iniquity, for it is great. Psalm 25:11*

*Forgive all my sins. Psalm 25:18*

The first term has to do with missing the mark. The second focuses on deliberate acts of rebellion against God’s ways. Other passages clearly affirm God’s willingness to forgive His people.

*He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him. Psalm 103:10-13*

**“THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE.” Hebrews 10:17**

If to remember something is to bring it to the front of our consciousness and even speak about it or mention it, to not remember is to keep it buried in the memory where it has no bearing on the present or even mention it again. David asked God not to remember his sins but remember ME!

Two Psalms especially focus on confession and forgiveness. Psalm 51 and Psalm 32. Both are Psalms of David looking back to his own failure.

*If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared. Psalm 130:3-4*

*Make glad the soul of Your servant, For to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon You. Psalm 86:4-5*

The New Testament of course highlights the wonder of forgiveness.

**“Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, Acts 13:38**

*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavished on us. Ephesians 1:7-8*

*For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13-14*

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9*

He asked for direction and instruction.

*Make me know Your ways, O LORD; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me, Psalm 25:4-5*

These terms all basically ask for the same thing; to understand God's way of doing things.

*Who is the man who fears the LORD? He will instruct him in the way he should choose. Psalm 25:12*

*The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him, and He will make them know His covenant. Psalm 25:14*

Solomon affirmed God's promised direction.

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6*

James promises God's instruction.

*But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. James 1:5-6*

Paul asserted (2 Tim 3:15) that all Scripture was inspired by God to provide teaching, reproof, correction and instruction in godly living in order to equip us to effectively serve the Lord.

- **He asked for affirmation and connection.**

*Remember, O LORD, Your compassion and Your lovingkindnesses, for they have been from of old. Psalm 25:6*

*According to Your lovingkindness remember me, for Your goodness' sake, O LORD. Psalm 25:7*

*Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. Psalm 25:16*

*Look upon my affliction and my trouble, and forgive all my sins. Psalm 25:18*

Lord, remember me. Pay attention. Turn my direction. Bring me face to face with you. Manifest your loving presence. Affirm our covenant relationship. You share your secrets with those who fear you. You have intimate conversation with those who trust you.

*"No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you. John 15:15*

David's songs were at times intensely personal. Very often however in the heat of a very personal conversation with God concerning his own struggle he would find his heart burning with concern for the people. This Psalm is no exception. However, amidst his concern for his own struggle and need and pray for deliverance, David remembers the need of the nation for deliverance.

*Redeem Israel, O God, Out of all his troubles. Psalm 25:22*

*Who has God prompted you to lift up in prayer today?*

*It is not just about us. It is about the community.*

What is your struggle today? Belt out a R.A.P. song.

Resolve to trust God and hope in Him.

Affirm His person and promises.

Pour out your heart to him.

*And without faith (trust) it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him. Heb 11:6*

*Though He slay me, I will hope in Him. Job 13:15a*

*Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right. 1 Peter 4:19*

*Thus says the LORD, cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the LORD. For he will be like a bush in the desert and will not see when prosperity comes, but will live in stony wastes in the wilderness, a land of salt without inhabitant. Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD And whose trust is the LORD. For he will be like a tree planted by the water, that extends its roots by a stream and will not fear when the heat comes; but its leaves will be green, and it will not be anxious in a year of drought nor cease to yield fruit. Jeremiah 17:5-8*

Will you patiently wait on Him to act on your behalf?

*Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, and they will walk and not become weary. Isaiah 40:28-31*

*Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philip 4:6-7*

We came to remember God today and all He did on our behalf. I want you to know that God remembers you. You are in the forefront of His mind.

*But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me, and the Lord has forgotten me." "Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me. Isaiah 49:14-16*

*Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you," so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?" Heb 13:5-6*

Will you cast all your anxiety on Him today?

Will you intercede on behalf of others in their distress?

*Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light." Matthew 11:28-30*