

# CONTENTS

Introduction	5
How To Get the Most Out of This Study	7

## *P*SALMS OF INSTRUCTION—A LEARNING HEART

Day One	Psalm 1	9
Day Two	Psalm 19	15
Day Three	Psalm 37	21
Day Four	Psalm 73	27
Day Five	Psalm 90	33

## *P*SALMS OF EXPECTATION—A LEANING HEART

Day Six	Psalm 16	39
Day Seven	Psalm 23	45
Day Eight	Psalm 27	51
Day Nine	Psalm 46	57
Day Ten	Psalm 57	63
Day Eleven	Psalm 71	69
Day Twelve	Psalm 91	75
Day Thirteen	Psalm 121	81

## *P*SALMS OF ASPIRATION—A LONGING HEART

Day Fourteen	Psalm 25	87
Day Fifteen	Psalm 42	93
Day Sixteen	Psalm 85	99
Day Seventeen	Psalm 142	105
Day Eighteen	Psalm 139	111

## *P*SALMS OF CONTRITION—A LOWLY HEART

Day Nineteen	Psalm 32	117
Day Twenty	Psalm 51	123
Day Twenty-One	Psalm 130	129
Day Twenty-Two	Psalm 143	135

## *P*SALMS OF CELEBRATION—A LOVING HEART

Day Twenty-Three	Psalm 34	141
Day Twenty-Four	Psalm 36	147
Day Twenty-Five	Psalm 66	153
Day Twenty-Six	Psalm 92	159
Day Twenty-Seven	Psalm 103	165
Day Twenty-Eight	Psalm 116	171
Day Twenty-Nine	Psalm 138	177
Day Thirty	Psalm 145	183
Special Thanks To . . .		189
For More Information on Revive Our Hearts . . .		189

## DAY ONE

# Psalm 1



## Preparing Your Heart

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Ask God to quiet your heart and to speak to you through His Word. Ask Him to shine the light of His truth into your life. In this quiet moment, surrender yourself to Him and commit to obey whatever He shows you. Begin your time of devotion with this prayer:

*Open my eyes that I may see  
wonderful things in your law.  
Give me understanding, and I will keep your law  
and obey it with all my heart.  
Show me your ways, O Lord,  
teach me your paths;  
guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my Savior,  
and my hope is in you all day long.  
Teach me what I cannot see;  
if I have done wrong, I will not do so again.*

PSALM 119:18, 34; 25:4-5; JOB 34:32 NIV



## Listening to God

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- 👁️ Read Psalm 1 thoughtfully and prayerfully.
- 👁️ What key words stand out to you in this passage?
  
- 👁️ Write out a key verse from this passage.
  
- 👁️ Summarize the entire passage in a sentence or two.

### WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE SAY?

*(Observation)*

*"This psalm may be regarded as The Preface Psalm, having in it a notification of the contents of the entire Book. It is the Psalmist's desire to teach us the way to blessedness and to warn us of the sure destruction of sinners. This, then, is the matter of the First Psalm, which may be looked upon, in some respects, as the text upon which the whole of the Psalms make up a divine sermon."<sup>1</sup>*

CHARLES H. SPURGEON

1. What are the characteristics of a righteous person? What does he avoid? What does he love to think about (vv. 1–2)?

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2. How does the word picture of a "transplanted tree" describe the righteous (v. 3)?

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*"Trees do not plant themselves; neither do sinful people transport themselves into God's kingdom. Salvation is His marvelous work of grace. Yet, there is genuine responsibility in appropriating the abundant resources of God, which lead to eventual productivity."<sup>2</sup>*

JOHN MACARTHUR

3. What words are used to refer to evildoers in this psalm (vv. 1, 4)? What insights do those words give you into the unrighteous?

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FOR FURTHER INSIGHT

*"The picture is that of a threshing floor on a hill-top, where the wind clears away the chaff and leaves the grain."<sup>3</sup>*

4. Compare the first word of this psalm with the last word. What do these two words reveal about the outcome of the righteous and of the ungodly?

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WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE MEAN?

*(Interpretation)*

1. How can we be secure, fruitful, consistent, and prosperous in our Christian walk?

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2. How do people's choices, lifestyles, and appetites reveal the true condition of their hearts?

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3. If an individual is drawn toward ungodly people and influences, does not have an appetite for the Word of God, and is not living a spiritually fruitful life, what does that suggest about his spiritual condition?

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4. What does it mean to meditate on the law of God?

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HOW CAN I MAKE THIS PASSAGE A PART OF MY LIFE?  
*(Application)*

1. What do your choices, interests, and priorities reveal about your heart?

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2. Are there areas of your life where you are choosing to expose yourself to ungodly input?

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3. Are you more influenced by the thinking and lifestyles of ungodly people or by meditation on the Word of God?

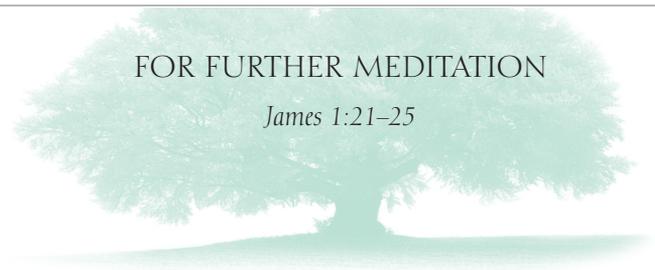
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4. How can you cultivate a greater hunger for and delight in God's Word?  
How can you make His Word a greater part of your life?

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FOR FURTHER MEDITATION

*James 1:21–25*



## Responding to God

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### PRAISE

What does this passage reveal to you about God and His ways? Praise Him for His Word and for what it has meant in your life.

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### PRAYER

-  *Confession:* Agree with God about any areas where you may have adopted ungodly ways of thinking or living.
-  *Supplication:* Ask God to give you a greater love and hunger for His Word.
-  *Intercession:* Use this passage as a basis to pray for someone whom God places on your heart.

## SING TO THE LORD

### *Trust and Obey*

*W*hen we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,  
What a glory He sheds on our way!  
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,  
And with all who will trust and obey.

*Trust and obey, for there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

*Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,  
But His smile quickly drives it away;  
Not a doubt nor a fear, not a sigh nor a tear  
Can abide while we trust and obey.*

*But we never can prove the delights of His love  
Until all on the altar we lay;  
For the favor He shows and the joy He bestows  
Are for them who will trust and obey.*

*Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,  
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;  
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go;  
Never fear, only trust and obey.*

JOHN H. SAMMIS

### TAKE-AWAY THOUGHT

*W*hat key thought, phrase, or verse from this psalm  
will you take with you into your day?

<sup>1</sup> Charles H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David* (Grand Rapids: Kregel Publications, 1968), 13.

<sup>2</sup> John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Study Bible* (Nashville: Word Bibles, 1997), 743.

<sup>3</sup> Charles F. Pfeiffer and Everett F. Harrison, ed., *The Wycliffe Bible Commentary* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1990), 496.

## DAY TWO

# Psalm 19



## Preparing Your Heart

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Ask God to quiet your heart and to speak to you through His Word. Ask Him to shine the light of His truth into your life. In this quiet moment, surrender yourself to Him and commit to obey whatever He shows you. Begin your time of devotion with this prayer:

*Open my eyes that I may see  
wonderful things in your law.  
Give me understanding, and I will keep your law  
and obey it with all my heart.  
Show me your ways, O Lord,  
teach me your paths;  
guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my Savior,  
and my hope is in you all day long.  
Teach me what I cannot see;  
if I have done wrong, I will not do so again.*

PSALM 119:18, 34; 25:4-5; JOB 34:32 NIV



## Listening to God

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- 👁️ Read Psalm 19 thoughtfully and prayerfully.
- 👁️ What key words stand out to you in this passage?
  
- 👁️ Write out a key verse from this passage.
  
- 👁️ Summarize the entire passage in a sentence or two.

### WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE SAY? *(Observation)*

The psalmist (David) marvels at two ways that God has revealed Himself to humanity:

*Natural (general) revelation (vv. 1–6)*

1. What does creation tell us about God?

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*“Though all preachers on earth should grow silent, and every human mouth cease from publishing the glory of God, the heavens above will never cease to declare and proclaim His majesty and glory.”<sup>1</sup>*

AUGUSTUS T. THOLUCK

*Special (specific) revelation (vv. 7–11)*

2. What is the connection between “the heavens” (vv. 1–6) and “the law of the LORD” (vv. 7–11)?

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3. What synonyms are used in this passage for the Word of God (vv. 7–9)? What adjectives are used to describe the Word of God (vv. 7–9)?

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4. David’s response in the light of God’s revelation was *self-examination* (vv. 12–14). What two kinds of sins does the psalmist pray to be delivered from (vv. 12–13)?

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5. What does he want the Word of God to accomplish in his life?

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**WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE MEAN?**  
*(Interpretation)*

1. Why is the Word of God so vital and valuable to the child of God?

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2. God promises “great reward” to those who “keep” His Word (v. 11). What does it mean to keep His Word?

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3. Why is God’s Word more valuable than our most precious possessions and sweeter than the greatest pleasures on this earth?

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4. Many people think of obeying God’s law as a burden. Why is it more a privilege and a blessing than a burden?

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**HOW CAN I MAKE THIS PASSAGE A PART OF MY LIFE?**  
*(Application)*

1. What are some specific areas of your life that have been changed by the Word of God?

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2. Which of the benefits and blessings in verses 7–11 would you like to experience in greater measure?

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3. What practical steps can you take to make the Word a higher priority in your life?

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4. Are you aware of anything in the Word of God that you are not currently obeying? Will you repent of going your own way and begin walking in obedience to His Word?

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FOR FURTHER MEDITATION

2 Timothy 3:14–17



## Responding to God

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### PRAISE

Thank God for His Word. Thank Him for making it available to you, and praise Him for the way that His Word has blessed and protected your life.

### PRAYER

-  *Confession:* Admit any hidden or willful sins that God reveals as you ask Him to search and cleanse your heart.
-  *Supplication:* Pray the prayer of verses 12–14 in your own words.
-  *Intercession:* Use this passage as a basis to pray for someone whom God places on your heart.

## SING TO THE LORD

### *Break Thou the Bread of Life*

*Break Thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,  
As thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;  
Beyond the sacred page, I seek Thee, Lord;  
My spirit pants for Thee, O Living Word.*

*Break Thou the bread of life, O Lord, to me,  
That hid within my heart Thy Word may be;  
Mold Thou each inward thought, from self set free,  
And let my steps be all controlled by Thee.*

*Open the Word of Truth that I may see  
Thy message written clear and plain for me;  
Then in sweet fellowship, walking with Thee,  
Thine image on my life engraved will be.*

MARY A. LATHBURY

ALEXANDER GROVES, LAST STANZA



<sup>1</sup> Spurgeon, *Treasury of David*, 86.