

**Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church  
We're glad you're here!**



# Blessed Be the Name

## Hymn 352



# I Am Thine, O Lord

## Hymn 455



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# Call to Worship

## *Psalm 3*

**Psalm 3** A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son. O LORD, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me; many are saying of my soul, there is no salvation for him in God. But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill. I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the LORD sustained me. I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around. Arise, O LORD! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked. Salvation belongs to the LORD; your blessing be on your people!

# It Is No Secret

## Hymn 581



# When We All Get To Heaven

## Hymn 123





## Praise and Prayer Request

**Philippians 1:3-6** I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

# Receiving of the Offering

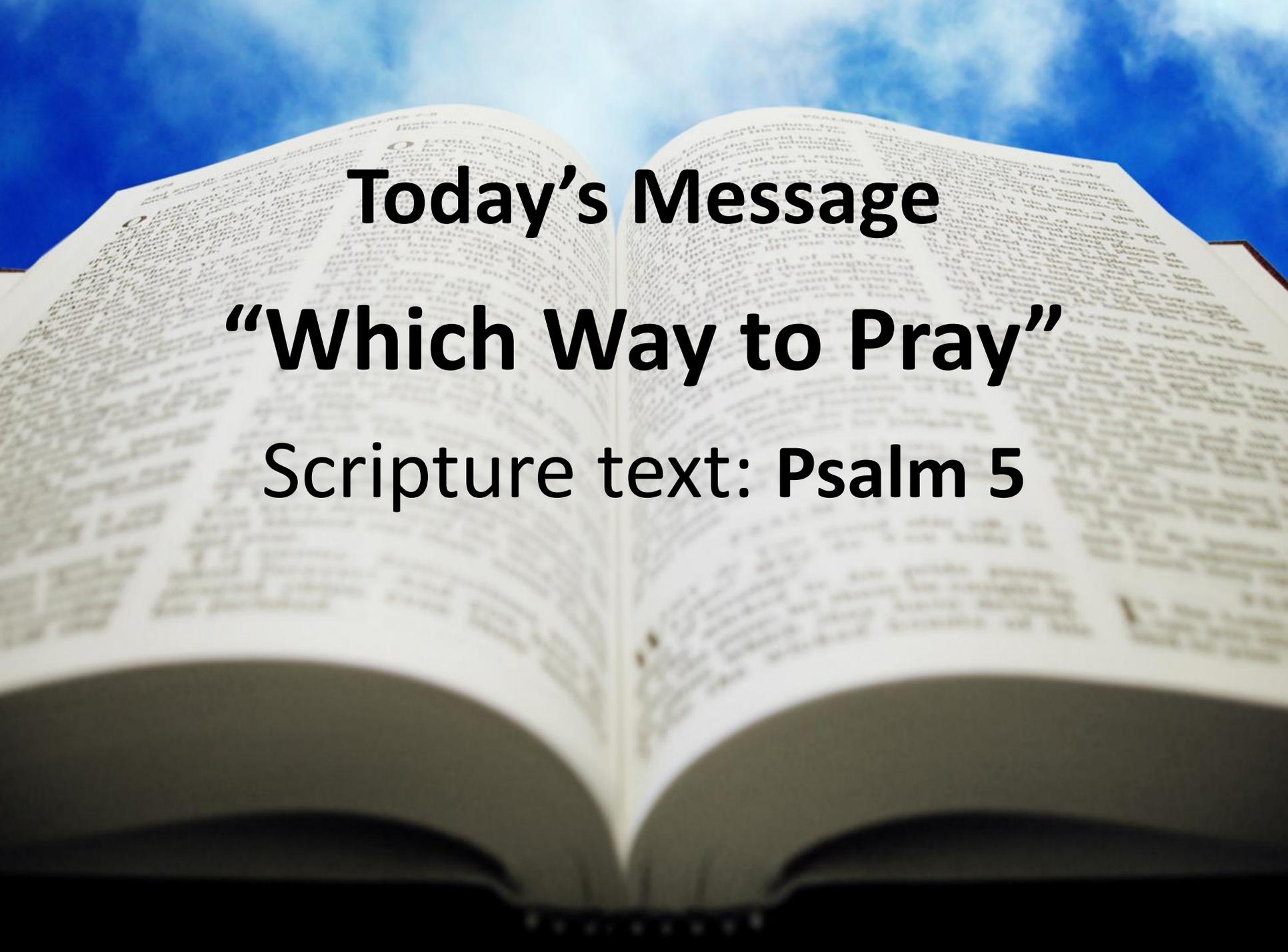


**2 Corinthians 9:5** So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready **as a willing gift**, not as an exaction.

# ***Famous Quote:***

*“Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not a straw whether they be clergymen or laymen, such alone will shake the gates of hell and set up the kingdom of God upon earth.”*

**JOHN WESLEY**

An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with small, dense text, likely a Bible. The book is set against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is overlaid in a large, bold, black font.

**Today's Message**  
**“Which Way to Pray”**

**Scripture text: Psalm 5**

# Which way do I pray?

Do I petition the Lord, or do I intercede for others,

Do I raise my complaint to the Lord of host,

Do I praise the Lord for all that He has done,

Do I pray thanksgiving prayer to the Lord with a grateful heart,

Do I bring a prayer of confession (repentance) to the Lord so that He will hear my prayer,

Or do I bring prayers of imprecation to the Lord?

**Psalm 5:4-10** For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; **evil may not dwell with you.** The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. You destroy those who speak lies; the LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man. But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you. Lead me, O LORD, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me. For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue. **Make them bear their guilt, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; because of the abundance of their transgressions cast them out, for they have rebelled against you.**

**Psalm 69:22-28** Let their own table before them become a snare; and when they are at peace, let it become a trap. **Let their eyes be darkened, so that they cannot see**, and make their loins tremble continually. Pour out your indignation upon them, and let your burning anger overtake them. **May their camp be a desolation; let no one dwell in their tents.** For they persecute him whom you have struck down, and they recount the pain of those you have wounded. Add to them punishment upon punishment; may they have no acquittal from you. Let them be blotted out of the book of the living; let them not be enrolled among the righteous.

Can I pray in secret, only in my mind, or do I need to pray out loud?

Talking to the Lord can be done in secret or openly.

**Matthew 6:1-2** "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven." Thus, when you give to the needy, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.

**Matthew 6:3-8** But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "And **when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites.** For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, **that they may be seen by others.** Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. "And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

**John 11:40-44** Jesus said to her, "**Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?**" So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "**Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.**" When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "**Lazarus, come out.**" The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "**Unbind him, and let him go.**"

Why should we proclaim aloud our prayers to God.

**To put the enemy on notice**, that we are God's Children, and we are moving in His Will, and that their activity is no longer accepted or tolerated!

To Pray God honoring, Kingdom building, and God Glorifying Prayer; **shakes the place.**

**Act 4:31** And **when they had prayed, the place** in which they were gathered together **was shaken**, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

**That God's will is done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.**

The imprecatory (or cursing or vengeance) psalms are probably the most difficult obstacle Christians face when taking up the Psalms as their own prayers. **Here's why I think we should pray them:**

**1.** Because the Lord's Pattern Prayer teaches us to pray similarly: **"Your kingdom come, your will be on earth as it is in heaven"** (Mat. 6:10).

The coming of the Kingdom includes the **vanquishing of the King's enemies** (2 Thes. 1:5–12).

**2 Thessalonians 1:5-8** This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, **for which you are also suffering**--since indeed **God** considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

**2 Thessalonians 1:9-12** They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**2. Since “we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but...against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12) therefore we can pray them against Satan and his legions.**

**Ephesians 6:11-13** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able **to stand against the schemes of the devil**. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, **that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm**.

**3. Jesus bore the vengeance that the Psalms ask for: “*The imprecatory psalm leads to the cross of Jesus and to the love of God which forgives enemies. . . . In this way the crucified Jesus teaches us to pray the imprecatory psalms correctly” (Bonhoeffer).***

**4. We can pray them in **self-imprecation**, “If by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live” (Romans 8:13), **asking the Spirit to carry on his war against the flesh within us, until everything that opposes God is destroyed.****

5. It cannot be an Old Testament problem because there are **similar New Testament prayers**, like the saints in heaven: **“They cried out with a loud voice, “O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?”** (Rev. 6:10).

6. **Paul prayed imprecatory prayers:** “If anyone has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come!” (1 Cor. 16:22) “If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed” (Gal 1:9).

**Galatians 1:6-10** I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel--not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, **let him be accursed**. As we have said before, so now I say again: **If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed**. For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? **If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ.**

7. Because in a topsy-turvy world of injustice, they recognize where true justice comes from.

*“Imprecations are appeals to the Judge of the earth to play the part of Judge”* (Peter Leithart).

8. Praying the imprecatory psalms leaves **vengeance up to God.** In the same breath, Paul teaches us to “Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them”...he also says **“never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God”** (Romans 12:14,19).

**Romans 12:14-19** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but **give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.** If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."

**9. It shows trust that “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” (Romans 12:19)**

**10. Imprecatory psalms are the songs of the oppressed, always prayed from a position of vulnerability and weakness, not dominance or triumphalism.**

**11. To curse enemies doesn't necessarily mean hell. For David, it primarily meant death.**

**12. We are primarily praying against God's enemies, not our own personal vendettas.**

**13. We are simply asking God to keep his covenant promises to Abraham and his offspring: "I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed" (Gen 12:3). We are the inheritors of this promise to bless and curse: "And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise" (Gal 3:29).**

**14. We are following Jesus' example who**  
“When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but **continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly**” (1 Peter 2:23).

**15. As James Hamilton points out, a central theme in the Bible is God's glory in salvation through judgement. **We are certainly allowed to pray for this.****

# When We All Get To Heaven

## Hymn 123

