

# TRUTH & RIGHT

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## DWELLING IN GOD'S HOLY HILL

The 15th Psalm is one I have preached, taught in classes, etc. It is a straightforward psalm that tells us how to abide (live) with God. In verse one, David asks who shall be in God's presence or enjoy fellowship with God. The rest of the psalm answers this question. Another interesting point is that Psalm 15 is similar to Psalm 24. As we continue to read, we will see that Psalm 24 borrows some phrases from here, just like Psalm 53 and Psalm 14 are worded similarly. The difference is that Psalm 24 only uses a small piece of Psalm 15, but Psalm 53 repeats Psalm 14 word-for-word. In the text, we see David's main question asked in verse 1. It is the same question asked two ways: "Who shall abide in thy tabernacle?" and "Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?" Zion (God's dwelling) is compared to the tabernacle (tent) or a high hill in this verse. When we look back in the Old Testament, we see the tabernacle was where God spoke and met

(communed) with His people (Ex. 29:42-43, 33:8-9). This is where God's glory was seen (Ex. 40:34-35). Thus, it is fitting to ask such a question. Please note David did not have the literal tabernacle in mind. We know this based on the rest of the Psalm. Again, who can be in God's presence, ultimately? Imagine being a Jew 3000 years ago and getting to sing this song that spelled out who it is! Someone who (v. 2-5): - Walks uprightly or blamelessly. This word would remind the Hebrews of the spotless animal sacrifice they were to offer. He lives a life of integrity, just as John taught (1 Jn. 2:6). - Works righteousness. This was what Peter told Cornelius to do as well (Acts 10:35). - Speaks the truth "in his heart." This shows the sincerity of the person. He doesn't speak the truth only when convenient for him to do so. He is an honest person (Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9)! - Does not backbite. This is a natural contrast with the last

phrase about speaking the truth!  
- Does not do evil. This is a demand throughout Scripture. We are not to do evil to people even when they first did evil to us (Rom. 12:19; Matt. 7:12, 5:39-45). - Does not take a reproach against his neighbor. From this, we see we are not to “discredit” or say evil things against our neighbors. “Who is my neighbor?” Do you remember? - Rejects the vile person. The righteous man has the right attitude toward evil people. This is not speaking about hatred of the person but a rejection of the deeds of the evil person. One in fellowship with God does not praise evil but rejects it, just like Jesus did (Heb. 1:9)! - Honors those who fear the Lord. This statement stands as a natural contrast with the last phrase. Since a righteous man rejects the vile person’s ways, he accepts those who fear the Lord! He is in fellowship with everyone who is in fellowship with God (II Jn. 9-11; I Jn. 1:7). - Swears to his own hurt. This means this person makes a promise and stands by it when it is right. This is especially true when we consider the things we have promised God (Ecc. 5:1-6)! When I made a vow to be a Christian, this means I will be a Christian and follow the Lord regardless of what others say! - Does not put out his money to usury. This is a little difficult for 21st-century people to understand. Under the Old Testament, God forbade His people from charging interest on

debts to anyone but foreigners (Ex. 22:25; Lev. 25:35-37; Deut. 23:19-20; Neh. 5; etc.). Thus, a righteous man would not charge interest on debts to his countrymen. A modern application would be not to be oppressive to people or not take advantage of people when they are in a weakened circumstance, financially or otherwise. - Does not take a bribe. Staying with the theme of “money” and how to use it properly, righteous people do not take bribes! Judas would be an example of someone who did not live Psalm 15:5 (Matt. 26:15)! Doing these things means we will not be moved (shaken), just as Jesus taught in Matthew 7:24-28! When we look to the New Testament, we see obedience to God emphasized similarly. If I am going to please God, I need to do what He says (Heb. 5:9), be motivated in the right way (I Cor. 13:4-8; Jn. 13:34-35), and treat others correctly (Matt. 7:12). Just as in Old Testament days, it is possible to be in fellowship with God today! Let’s make this our daily goal to “walk in the light” (I Jn. 1:7)! – Jarrod Jacobs **The Lord Is My Rock** *“I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies .... The Lord liveth and blessed be my rock: and let the God of my salvation be exalted”* (Ps. 18:3, 46). If you sang those verses as you read them, you are indeed a blessed person. Though we will never know the tune (or cadence) to

which David set Psalm 18, modern men have set some of this Psalm to music that allows us to sing it. Psalm 18 was David's cry of thanksgiving after being delivered from Saul. It has the unique position of being a psalm quoted almost entirely in II Samuel 22. When reading First Samuel, we know David was chased by Saul for a while when it was clear that he was to be king instead of Jonathan (I Sam. 18:10-26:25). When David killed Goliath, the women sang, "*Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands*" (I Sam. 18:7). After this event and seeing how the people responded to David, Saul became jealous and was determined to kill him. Thankfully, this did not happen. At the same time, David was faced with opportunities to kill Saul but refused to kill the "Lord's anointed." As a result, God caused an end to the hostilities when Saul was made aware that his life could have been taken by David, but it wasn't (I Sam. 26:21). An interesting fact about this Psalm is that some suggest the original word used was not "Saul" but "Sheol" (grave) that was used in that first paragraph. This was referred to in Psalm 18:5, also. If it was actually David praising God for delivering him from the grave, it must certainly include praise for his deliverance from Saul because Saul wanted to kill him! Either way, (whether Saul or Sheol), David's praise and gratitude to God are just as real,

and this attitude needs to be seen today! I find it fascinating that the praise David gives God in verse 2 is repeated throughout the Psalm. David speaks of God as ... - Rock (v. 2, 31, 46) - not a mere pebble, but a large rock where thousands might stand and even build their homes! Think of Matthew 16:18. This rock will stand! - Fortress (v. 2) - In other words, He's a fortified refuge for God's people! They have a place to go when they need protection and comfort. - Deliverer (v. 2, 17, 19, 40, 43, 48, 50) - He delivers us from the danger and sin in this world if we let Him. - Strength (v. 2, 17b, 29, 32, 34, 39) - Since we are weak, He provides strength! - Buckler/Shield (v. 2, 30, 35) - He has the shield to help us when Satan attacks. In Ephesians, Paul wants all Christians to carry the "shield of faith" to "quench the fiery darts (arrows) of the wicked" (Eph. 6:16). - Horn (v. 2, 33-34) - just as an animal's horn is used for protection, so God is that "horn of salvation," protecting us from spiritual dangers, like Satan, while we are on earth. - High Tower (v. 2) - though the term "tower" is not used, the reference to God being "on high" or above us is seen in verses 13-14 and 16. David learned about God from experience. Have we learned to trust in God as David did? If not, why not? He loves and cares for us, and we need to turn to Him for everything in this life! - Jarrod Jacobs

# BIBLE TRIVIA

## C H A L L E N G E

**DIRECTIONS:** After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

**1. Jesus said He spoke in parables "because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they \_\_\_\_."**

- a) Speak
- b) Understand
- c) Whistle
- d) Breakdance

**2. Seed sown beside the road is snatched away by the \_\_\_\_ one.**

- a) Crazy
- b) Fidgety
- c) Shy
- d) Evil

**3. Wheat and tares will be allowed to grow together until the \_\_\_\_.**

- a) Harvest
- b) Birthday
- c) Evening
- d) Sunset

**4. When the mustard seed is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a \_\_\_\_.**

- a) Tortleneck
- b) Harmonica
- c) Swatch
- d) Tree

**5. The \_\_\_\_ of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened.**

- a) Kingdom
- b) Jello
- c) Noodles
- d) Pudding

**6. Jesus did not speak to the crowds without a \_\_\_\_.**

- a) Powerpoint
- b) Lazerpointer
- c) Pulpit
- d) Parable

**7. "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things \_\_\_\_ since the foundation of the world."**

- a) Silly
- b) Fantastic
- c) Hidden
- d) Frightening

**8. The man who found the treasure hidden in the field sold all he had and bought the field from \_\_\_\_ over it.**

- a) Fear
- b) Joy
- c) Suspicion
- d) Confusion

**9. The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine \_\_\_\_.**

- a) Turtles
- b) Fannypacks
- c) Pearls
- d) Frogs

**10. At the end of the age, \_\_\_\_ will take out the wicked from among the righteous.**

- a) God
- b) Jesus
- c) Holy Spirit
- d) Angels

- 1) B, Reference: Mt. 13:13  
 2) D, Reference: Mt. 13:19  
 3) A, Reference: Mt. 13:30  
 4) D, Reference: Mt. 13:31-32  
 5) A, Reference: Mt. 13:33  
 6) D, Reference: Mt. 13:34  
 7) C, Ps. 78:2; Mt. 13:35  
 8) B, Mt. 13:44  
 9) C, Mt. 13:45  
 10) D, Mt. 13:49