

## Psalm 17    A Prayer of David

### *I am an innocent man*

<sup>1</sup> LORD Jesus,

I need Your help once again, so please devote Your full attention to my cry for help. My cause is just, right, and good, so please rescue me from those who are trying to destroy me. Oh, please hear what I am asking since I have not spoken behind anyone's back nor said anything that would betray the trust of another.<sup>1</sup><sup>2</sup> My oppressors have judged me guilty of all sorts of sins, but if I am to be judged, You be my judge. After all, You are the only One who is totally impartial and will examine my case fairly and without partiality.<sup>3</sup> In reality, though, You have already examined every aspect of my life and found that there is nothing in me that would make me guilty of the accusations my enemies hurl against me almost daily. You also know that I have determined in my heart that I will not say or do anything that is outside the boundaries You have established for me in Your Word.<sup>4</sup> In fact, I have faithfully made Your commandments my guide, and they have kept me from either running with men who use harsh physical force to hurt or kill innocent people, or doing those things myself.<sup>5</sup> Since I have carefully followed Your way, You have taken me by the hand and have kept me from stumbling or falling down. Thank you for that, because if You had not been my helper I surely would have perished by now.

### *Keep me in Your love*

<sup>6</sup> I have called upon You because I know that You will answer me. So LORD, please turn Your full attention to my plea for help.<sup>7</sup> Please pour out Your tender love and kindness and deliver me in such a way that no one can misunderstand the fact that it came from You. Make it so obvious that even the casual observer will recognize that Your tender love and kindness is Your normal response toward all who take refuge in You for deliverance from their enemies.

### *The wicked want to destroy me*

<sup>8</sup> Please make me a cherished object of your affection, and hide me under the umbrella of Your secure protection.<sup>9</sup> Keep me from the grasp of men who are trying to take my life, because these are violent, wicked men who surround me on every side and daily try their best to ruin or destroy me.<sup>10</sup> These wicked men have lost any ability to feel compassion. In fact, they have become so calloused toward me that they proudly fabricate and spread bold lies about me.<sup>11</sup> These same wicked people have completely surrounded my companions and me no matter where we go, and they look for any means available to make us fall or to destroy us.<sup>12</sup> They are like a lion who cannot wait to tear its prey to pieces and like the young lion who lurks out of sight as he waits for his prey to get close enough so that he can pounce upon it to devour it.

### ***This world is the wicked man's inheritance***

<sup>13</sup> LORD, confront my enemies about their sin, and make them recognize their error and bow in submission to You. Use the sword of Your Word to deliver me from these wicked men. <sup>14</sup> Yes, use Your own hand to free me from men of the world who live for this life only and do not recognize the damnation that awaits them in the next. These people really think they are succeeding when You allow them to fill their bellies with fine delicacies, amass great fortunes, have kids, and leave a large inheritance when they die.

### ***You are my hope and trust***

<sup>15</sup> These wicked people can do as they wish, but I will live with eternity in mind and anticipate seeing Your loving face in heaven where there is no sin. I will be satisfied when I awake in glory to see my Savior, Jesus Christ, my Messiah,<sup>2</sup> and have a resurrected body like His. Oh, what a wonderful day that will be!

<sup>1</sup> Definition of "Deceit" [www.dictionary.com/browse/deceit](http://www.dictionary.com/browse/deceit)

<sup>2</sup> In John 14:6, Christ said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father but by me." Therefore, the name "Jesus Christ, my Messiah" has been used for LORD.