

# LESSON 4

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## PSALMS 62—64

### **PSALM 62: TRUSTING “ONLY” IN GOD**

As a psalm of confidence, this poem teaches us to rely completely upon God. Other topics are brought up within it, but the dominant theme is unwavering faith in God. Verses 1 and 2, the parallels of verses 5 and 6, emphasize the exclusive nature of faith by making an impassioned appeal for the reader to trust solely in God. Other verses (vv. 3, 4, 9, 10) include descriptions of the writer’s wicked opponents and the hardships they were making him face, along with warnings to the wicked.

1. What reasons does the writer give for his strong faith?
2. Which metaphors does the writer use to characterize God?
3. In what, other than God, do we sometimes put our trust?
4. What is the result of putting our hope in vain things?
5. How does the psalmist describe his enemies?

### **PSALM 63: SEEKING GOD**

Although often called a lament psalm, this beautiful psalm breathes more the spirit of confidence and trust. It emphasizes the life that a servant of God seeks to have with his God. As a type of morning devotional, it pictures God as a personal God, eminent yet loving, transcendent yet near, with whom the righteous have a precious, bigger-than-life relationship.

From the psalm itself, we can deduce that the writer was separated from the tabernacle, was in danger of being attacked by enemies, and was surrounded by waterless places. He was exhausted from distress and worn out from fleeing for his life.

The key thought of the psalm is his hunger for fellowship with God. The writer considers being in God's presence as the highest privilege and joy of his life and makes it the pursuit of his heart. His walk with God exhibits two characteristics: a reality and a continual growth. As he expresses these dimensions, we see the inner traits of a godly man.

6. Where do we see the intensity of David's desire to be close to God?
7. What happens to "those who speak lies" (v. 11)?
8. What do you think the "dry and weary land" is in verse 1?
9. Although this is a lament psalm, how can it also be read as one of praise and worship?

**PSALM 64:  
BESIEGED BY EVIL TONGUES**

With pathos and vividness, this psalm brings before us the judgment of the evil tongue. The song is a lament, a complaint, that pictures a relentless and calculated slander campaign waged against the writer by clever enemies. Verse 2 calls the foes "evildoers." Although his situation is desperate, the writer does not see himself as hopeless. He believes that God will hide him from his enemies' destructive attacks and that He will see that their evil is judged. The psalm contains a brief complaint (v. 1), a cry for help (vv. 1, 2), a description of his circumstance (vv. 3-6), and an extended acknowledgment of the comfort he has in the character of God (vv. 7-10).

The principal lesson for the reader is the fierceness and the future of the malicious tongue. The psalm culminates by showing the reader the certainty of God's retribution. Alongside of God's judgment, the assassinating power of wicked words is held up for the believer to see.

10. How can evil speech harm the righteous?
11. What does the writer have to fear from his enemies?
12. Where do we see the psalmist's trust that God will punish the slanderous?

13. Why does the writer have faith that God will punish those who are harassing him?
14. How can we guard our tongues?