

**Psalm 5 (NASB)**

**Give ear to my words, O LORD,  
Consider my groaning.  
Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God,  
For to You I pray.  
In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice;  
In the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch.  
For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness;  
No evil dwells with You.  
The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes;  
You hate all who do iniquity.  
You destroy those who speak falsehood;  
The LORD abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.  
But as for me, by Your abundant lovingkindness I will enter Your house,  
At Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You.  
O LORD, lead me in Your righteousness because of my foes;  
Make Your way straight before me.  
There is nothing reliable in what they say;  
Their inward part is destruction itself.  
Their throat is an open grave;  
They flatter with their tongue.  
Hold them guilty, O God; By their own devices let them fall!  
In the multitude of their transgressions thrust them out,  
For they are rebellious against You.  
But let all who take refuge in You be glad,  
Let them ever sing for joy;  
And may You shelter them,  
That those who love Your name may exult in You.  
For it is You who blesses the righteous man, O LORD,  
You surround him with favor as with a shield.**

As is frequently the case in many of the psalms, the writer is in trouble. For whatever reason, people have lied about him, wronged him, and are giving him no relief. But instead of seeking revenge and fighting fire with fire, the psalmist asks God for help and justice.

God is a God of both mercy and justice. Those who practice evil will receive just punishment by being removed from God's presence. Those who practice goodness and love God will be sheltered and defended by the Lord of righteousness.

As this psalm shows, God's protection doesn't guarantee that we will live trouble-free lives! But it does guarantee that we won't have to suffer alone. God is always with us. There is more to living than this life, and God's power does not end at the grave. Like the psalmist, let us pray that the Lord will lead us in His righteousness and shelter us by His power.