

# THE WINGS

## *Psalm 17*

Three times we read the Bible passage and then pray or journal quietly for a few minutes to help us listen to the Spirit. Each reading is guided by a focus question listed below.

### Introduction to the Text

The Psalms record deep devotion, intense feeling, exalted emotion, and dark dejection. The Psalms play with all the keyboard keys of the human soul.

This book has been called the epitome and anatomy of the soul and designated as the garden of the Scriptures. The place Psalms have held in the lives of God's people testifies to their universality, although they have a peculiar Jewish application. They express the deep feelings of all believing hearts in all generations.

**Psalm 17** – This Psalm is labelled a prayer because the language of petition is predominant. With a just cause, sincerely presented, the writer prays for a just decision and help and protection. Pleading former mercies as a ground of hope, he urges his prayer in view of the malice, pride, rapacity, and selfishness of his foes, whose character is contrasted with his pious devotion and delight in God's favor."

### Psalm 17

"Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry!

Give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit!

<sup>2</sup> From your presence let my vindication come!

Let your eyes behold the right!

<sup>3</sup> You have tried my heart, you have visited me by night,  
you have tested me, and you will find nothing;

I have purposed that my mouth will not transgress.

<sup>4</sup> With regard to the works of man, by the word of your lips

I have avoided the ways of the violent.

<sup>5</sup> My steps have held fast to your paths;

my feet have not slipped.

<sup>6</sup> I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;  
incline your ear to me; hear my words.

<sup>7</sup> Wondrously show<sup>[a]</sup> your steadfast love,

O Savior of those who seek refuge

from their adversaries at your right hand.

Keep me as the apple of your eye;

hide me in the shadow of your wings,

<sup>9</sup> from the wicked who do me violence,

my deadly enemies who surround me.

<sup>10</sup> They close their hearts to pity;

with their mouths they speak arrogantly.

<sup>11</sup> They have now surrounded our steps;

they set their eyes to cast us to the ground.  
<sup>12</sup> He is like a lion eager to tear,  
as a young lion lurking in ambush.

<sup>13</sup> Arise, O Lord! Confront him, subdue him!  
Deliver my soul from the wicked by your sword,  
<sup>14</sup> from men by your hand, O Lord,  
from men of the world whose portion is in this life.<sup>[b]</sup>  
You fill their womb with treasure;<sup>[c]</sup>  
they are satisfied with children,  
and they leave their abundance to their infants.

<sup>15</sup> As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness;  
when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.”

Psalm 17 (ESV)

## Prayer / Journaling / Soul Talk Prompts

1. What is one word or phrase the Holy Spirit impresses on you? In silence meditate on that.
2. What do you feel? What question(s) do you have for God about your life today? Write down a prayer or pray quietly.
3. What is God’s personal invitation to you from the Scripture? You can write down what the Lord may be saying to you. Or you can recall God’s unfailing love for you, even if you’re not feeling it now, and write a prayer of thanks. Or simply rest quietly in the Spirit’s presence.<sup>[f]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>