

PSALMS FOR THE STRUGGLE

Part 4: Engaging Your Enemies

Psalm 10 • Pastor Ben Suggs • Freedom Family Church

Common Question: Why do _____ people often seem to _____?

- v1: "O Lord, why do you stand so far away? Why do you hide when I am in trouble?"
- v13: "Why do the wicked get away with despising God?"
- **Jeremiah 12:1-2:** "...Why are the wicked so prosperous? Why are evil people so happy? You have planted them, and they have taken root and prospered. Your name is on their lips, but you are far from their hearts."
- **Psalm 14:1:** "...there is no one who does good."

TRUTH: It's impossible to _____.

- **James 4:4:** "If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God."

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

1 Peter 5:8: "Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour."

1) An _____ of _____:

- v4,6: "...too proud to seek God...They think "Nothing bad will ever happen to us!"
- **Isaiah 13:11:** "I will crush the arrogance of the proud and humble the pride of the mighty."

2) A _____ of _____:

- v7: "Their mouths are full of cursing, lies, and threats. Trouble and evil are on the tips of their tongues."
- **Proverbs 18:21:** "The tongue has the power of life and death..."

3) A _____ for the _____:

- v9: "...they wait to pounce on the helpless."
- **Proverbs 31:8-9:** "Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute. Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."

ENGAGE YOUR ENEMY

- **Luke 6:27:** "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you."
- **Ephesians 6:12:** "For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places."

TRUTH: Every enemy must be fought first and foremost with _____.

Prayer #1: "Let them be caught in the evil they plan for others." (v2)

Why Pray This? So God's rebuke will be _____.

Prayer #2: "Punish the wicked, O God" (v12)

Why Pray This? So God's _____ would be accomplished.

Prayer #3: "Break the arms of these wicked, evil people!" (v15)

Why Pray This? So _____ will discontinue.

- Psalm 58:6: "O God, break the teeth in their mouths; tear out the fangs of the young lions, O LORD!"

Prayer #4: "*Hear the cries of the helpless, comfort them and bring them justice!*" (v16-28)

- Psalm 12:5: "Because of the oppression of the weak and because of the groaning of the needy, I will now arise," says the LORD; "I will place in safety the one who longs for it."

Why Pray This? Because we _____ as ourselves.

- Romans 10:21: "Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good."

Why can't we deal with enemies OUR way?

Romans 5:10: "...while ***we were God's enemies***, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son."

Further Study

(Read these Psalms and write down how God can use them in your life)

Monday: Psalm 9

Tuesday: Psalm 14

Wednesday: Psalm 25

Thursday: Psalm 26

Friday: Psalm 32

Saturday: Psalm 35