

Ps. 16 Discussion Questions

Read Psalm 16

1. What is David asking for in this Psalm? What is his request?

a. Does it surprise you that his request is in v. 1 and then the rest of the Psalm is about David's relationship with God? Why or why not?

b. How does this model for us what it looks like to ask in faith?

c. How does this help us to understand what David means in v. 7 by "my heart instructs me"?

d. How often do you remind yourself of who God is and what he has done while you pray? If you don't do it often, how might it impact your prayer life if, after you asked God for something, you followed David's example and reminded yourself of how good God is?

2. In v. 2 David says to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." In that one statement, David affirms both God's power and status (he is Lord) and his goodness.

a. When faced with challenges many of us struggle with affirming that God is both sovereign and good. Have you ever struggled with this? How so?

b. What does it take to really acknowledge and live under the lordship of God?

c. What does it take to really believe in the goodness of God?

d. What have you done or what has happened in your life that helped you grow to believe that God is both sovereign and good?

e. What happens to our attitude and our struggles when we really believe that God is both in control of everything and that he is good?

3. In vv. 3-4 David contrasts two groups. There are the saints: God's people who worship him. Then there are the idolaters who worship idols. David delights in the former and rejects the latter.

a. Obviously, we are called to love everyone and some of us have idolaters who are spouses, children, relatives, friends, co-workers, etc. Does this mean that we should only delight in our Christian friends, relatives, etc.? Or does this mean something else?

b. Where do you find yourself being tempted to participate in the pagan (non-Christian) practices of our culture?

c. What have you found helps you to resist the allure of idolatry? Try to come up with practical and specific examples.

4. In vv. 5 David declares that God is what he prizes about all else (God is his chosen portion). That is somewhere all Christians want to get to. What in vv. 6-8 clues us in on how David gets to the point where he values God above all else?

5. In v. 10 David expresses a confidence in God that the Lord will take care of him and preserve him even in death?

a. What did he mean by this?

b. How do we see this promise fulfilled in Jesus?

c. How does Jesus' resurrection from the dead apply this promise to us?

6. V. 11 ends with the bold statements with God there is both "fullness of joy" and "pleasures forevermore." Does this statement surprise you? When you think of God do you think of joy and pleasure?

a. When many people think of God and Christianity, they think of being somber and giving up everything that is fun and enjoyable. Why is that the case?

b. How is the pleasure of sin (which we are called to give up), different from the pleasure of being in fellowship with God?

c. How have you experienced this?

d. If we have pleasure and joy with God, why are we still so tempted to return to the pleasure of sin?

