

DISCOVER GOD'S SECRET STRENGTH FOR YOUR LIFE!

A woman wearing a dark green raincoat and a grey scarf stands in the rain with her arms outstretched, looking upwards with a joyful expression. The background is dark and rainy.

**LORD,**  
*I Love You!*

IN DEPTH CLASS OF PSALM 18

w/ Dr. Brian Simmons

PASSIONMOVEMENT.COM

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EVERY NEW  
VICTORY  
DESERVES A NEW  
SONG!

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We have been described as true pioneers in ministry. As a spiritual father and mother, our teaching and spiritual gifts have opened doors in many nations to take the message of authentic awakening and revival to many. For the last 40 years we have labored together to present Christ in His fullness wherever God sends us.

After a dramatic conversion to Christ in 1971, I (Brian) answered the call of God to leave everything behind and become missionaries to the tribes. Taking my wife and three children to the jungle of Central America we pioneered church plants for many years with the Kuna people group. While serving as missionaries, we planted churches and established leadership for the churches that Jesus birthed.

While missionaries in the harvest fields, God swept through villages with mighty power. That revival gave us fresh understanding of God's prophetic purposes for the last days awakening among the nations. After our ministry in the tribes, we returned to North America.

I (Brian) began to preach with power and authority for the coming days of glory that will usher in the return of Christ.

We have birthed numerous ministries, including a dynamic church, Gateway Christian Fellowship in West Haven, Connecticut. We also established Stairway Ministries and Passion & Fire Ministries under which we travel full-time.

We serve as U.S. Director. H.I.M. that oversees nearly 20,000 churches worldwide and now travel the nations releasing this message of end time awakening.

We have authored numerous books that reveal depths of insight that the Holy Spirit has released for the last days. We are now committed to finishing the translation of the entire Bible into a new dynamic-equivalent version called, The Passion Translation. See [www.passiontranslation.com](http://www.passiontranslation.com) for more info.

*Brian Simmons*

## **Psalm 18---I Love you, Lord!**

A song to the Pure and Shining One, by King David, his servant, composed when the Lord rescued David from all his many enemies, including from the brutality of Saul.

We know exactly when this psalm was written, for David tells us in the inscription. His days of hiding and running from Saul are now over. He now has the right to the throne. No longer an outlaw, he is king. His enemies are defeated, nothing now stands in his way to promotion. The civil unrest within his kingdom has ended, and the entire nation has crowned him as their leader. Mighty ones in his kingdom had all come to bow before him, including Nathan, the prophet. All the years of being an outcast have left him humbled and prepared for such a daunting task, leading the nation of Israel as its king.

Every new victory deserves a new song! Each time the Lord brings you out of trouble, sing your praise to Him and give thanks. This magnificent poem is so important to God that he includes it twice in the Bible, here and in 2 Samuel 22. This psalm is full of David's praise to God, full of answers to prayer, and full of miracles. David was prompted to praise because of the deeds of God which revealed who He was. Today, as we discover God through the revelation of Who He is, we too will be moved to praise.

This psalm is classified as a Royal Psalm of Thanksgiving. Indeed, David had many reasons to give thanks to God, and we do too! I find it fascinating, David describes himself as God's servant, not as the exalted king. His focus was on God, not on himself or his calling. God was his inheritance and praise.

### **Outline:**

David's Powerful Praise v. 1-6

God's Powerful Presence v. 7-17

God's Powerful Love v. 18-31



God's Powerful Protection v. 32-45

David's Powerful Praise v. 46-50

David's Powerful Praise (V. 1-6)

V. 1) Lord, I passionately love you and I'm bonded to you, for now you've become my power!

No matter what David went through, he voiced his love for God. He was a passionate lover of the God of glory. He gives us an example of anointed manhood—always bonding his heart to God's until heaven's strength infused his soul.

David doesn't employ the common Hebrew word for "love," 'ahav, but instead uses the Hebrew word for "pity" or "mercy." How could David have mercy for God? The word he uses, raham, is the word used for a mother who loves and pities her child so much it manifests with a deep love and emotional bond. This concept, although difficult to convey in English, carries the thought of embrace and touch. It could actually be translated "Lord, I want to hug you." Haven't you ever felt like that?

V. 2) You're as real to me as bedrock beneath my feet, like a castle on a cliff, my forever firm fortress, my mountain of hiding, my pathway of escape, my tower of rescue where none can reach me. My secret strength and shield around me, you are salvation's ray of brightness shining on the hillside, always the champion of my cause.

**Notice the 8 reasons David boasts in Yahweh.**

[He's] the Bedrock beneath my feet

[He's] my Faith-Fortress

[He's] my mountain of hiding

[He's] my pathway of escape

[He's] my tower of rescue where none can reach me

[He's] the Shield around me

[He's] salvation's ray of brightness

[He's] the champion of my cause

“

ALL I NEED TO DO  
IS TO CALL TO  
YOU!

”

V. 3-6) All I need to do is to call to you, singing to you, the praiseworthy God. When I do, I'm safe and sound in you. For when the ropes of death wrapped around me and terrifying torrents of destruction overwhelmed me, taking me to death's door, to doom's domain, I cried out to you in my distress, the delivering God, and from your temple-throne you heard my troubled cry. My sobs came right into your heart and you turned your face to rescue me.

This scene is not only a poetic portrayal of how God answered David's prayer, but also a picture of the sufferings of a greater Son of David, Jesus, who hung on the cross with cries of agony. God heard him and shook the planet as thick clouds covered the sun. Go back and read it again, and think about Jesus speaking these words on the cross.

Our cry is welcome in heaven. Just as a mother's heart is tied to the cry of her children, so God's heart is perfectly attuned to our cry. Our cry is enough. As David beautifully says, "All I need to do is to call to you."

How great is God? How high and lofty? Yet...our weakest, faintest sob pierces straight through to heaven's magnificent throne room. That glorious place, the center of everything, full of myriads of myriads of angelic beings, glorious beyond compare is where our greatest lover, father, and friend hears even our most pitiful cry. It pierces not only heaven...but the very heart of God Almighty—"My sobs came right into your heart"—and our heavenly Dad responds. He comes running...

### **God's Powerful Presence (V. 7-17)**

V. 7) The earth itself shivered and shook. It reeled and rocked before him. As the mountains trembled, they melted away! For his anger was kindled, burning on my behalf.

Applying this psalm to the cross of Christ, we see here the earthquake that happened when they killed our Savior. All of nature convulsed when men murdered their Maker. Even the sun hid its face in shame.

On whose behalf is God's anger kindled? Yes, we are His dear ones, His darlings. The earth cannot handle the presence of His majesty when He comes to deal with those who trouble His own. It shivers, shakes, trembles and even melts before His glory and might. Oh saint, child of God, His heart burns on your behalf. Never doubt it! If justice seems slow in coming, then hold this powerful picture in your heart—nothing can withstand His fiery love or fury. He will come! Your simple cry alone has ignited His heart with unquenchable fire.

V. 8-11) Fierce flames leapt from his mouth, erupting with blazing, burning coals as smoke and fire encircled him. He stretched heaven's curtain open and came to my defense. Swiftly he rode to earth as the stormy sky was lowered. He rode a chariot of thunderclouds amidst thick darkness, a cherub his steed as he swooped down, soaring on the wings of Spirit-wind. Wrapped and hidden in the thick-cloud darkness, his thunder-tabernacle surrounded him. He hid himself in mystery-darkness; the dense rain clouds were his garments.

We can see parallels here with the pillar of fire and smoke in Exodus. God comes and He is to our enemies a thick darkness, a blazing inferno of fury. He is simultaneously a light and shield to His people, and a cloud of blinding confusion and fear to our foes. He lights up the path of the righteous as He hides us in His cloak of darkness from those who would seek to harm us. Who is like our God!

V. 12-17) Suddenly the brilliance of his presence broke through with lightning bolts and with a mighty storm from heaven— like a tempest dropping coals of fire. The Lord thundered, the great God above every god spoke with his thunder-voice from the skies. What fearsome hailstones and flashes of fire were before him! He released his lightning-arrows, and routed my foes. See how they ran and scattered in fear! Then with his mighty roar he laid bare the foundations of the earth, uncovering the secret source of the sea. The hidden depths of land and sea were exposed by the hurricane-blast of his hot breath. He then reached down from heaven, all the way from the sky to the sea. He reached down into my darkness to rescue me! He took me out of my calamity and chaos and drew me to himself, taking me from the depths of my despair! Even though I was helpless in the hands of my hateful, strong enemy, you were good to deliver me.



Suddenly! We serve a God of “suddenlies”. Suddenlies in our lives are indeed sudden, but they are not “out of the blue”; they are precipitated. David’s suddenly came as he prayed and praised. Have you been laying the groundwork for your suddenly? Often, we are waiting for God when, in actuality, He is waiting for us. God uses process. We see throughout the Bible that the law of seedtime and harvest is at work. So, keep putting your “seed” of prayer, praise, etc. into the ground, even in the hard seasons and times of difficulty like David describes. You, too, will see your suddenly spring forth in due time.

For David, this was a suddenly of God overthrowing David’s enemies. We see a similar act of God in Psalm 64:7: “But all the while God has his own fire-tipped arrows! Suddenly, without warning, they will be pierced and struck down.” Let us take this truth to heart. “All the while” our enemies may be plotting and planning against God’s beloved, He is readying “his own fire-tipped arrows” and He will surely come through for us scattering evil forces. Scientists refer to hurricanes as the greatest storms on earth. “Hurricane force” speaks of the most the earth can muster in power. In fact, during its life cycle a hurricane can expend as much energy as 10,000 nuclear bombs! Look at verse 15 in light of that, and picture your champion God releasing the “hurricane blast of His hot breath” against your enemies!

The Lord unleashes His roar of vengeance in this passage. Read it through again and see the profound picture David paints for us. In the presence of powerful enemies (this is no exaggeration!) God releases His powerful voice! His voice alone releases fire, thunder, hail, and lightning. Everything flees in the quake and wake of His mighty roar.

“The voice of the Lord echoes through the skies and seas. The Glory-God reigns as he thunders in the clouds. So powerful is his voice, so brilliant and bright, how majestic as he thunders over the great waters! His tympanic thunder topples the strongest of trees. His symphonic sound splinters the mighty forests. Now he moves Zion’s mountains by the might of his voice, shaking the snowy peaks with his earsplitting sound! The lightning-fire flashes, striking as he speaks. God reveals himself when he makes the fault lines quake, shaking deserts, speaking his voice. God’s mighty voice makes the deer to give birth. His thunderbolt voice lays the forest bare. In his temple all fall before him with each one shouting, “Glory, glory, the God of glory!”” (Psalms 29:3-9)

All is stripped and laid bare to nothing before His majesty...and then...He tenderly reaches down and lifts up His beloved and tucks him to His chest, to His very heart...

## God's Powerful Love (V. 18-31)

V. 18-27) When I was at my weakest, my enemies attacked— but the Lord held on to me. His love broke open the way and he brought me into a beautiful broad place. He rescued me—because his delight is in me! He rewarded me for doing what's right and staying pure. I will follow his commands and never stop. I'll not sin by ceasing to follow him, no matter what. For I've kept my eyes focused on his righteous words and I've obeyed everything that he's told me to do. I've done my best to be blameless and to follow all his ways, keeping my heart pure. I've kept my integrity by surrendering to him. And so the Lord has rewarded me with his blessing. This is the treasure I discovered when I kept my heart clean before his eyes. Lord, it is clear to me now that how we live will dictate how you deal with us. Good people will taste your goodness, Lord. And to those who are loyal to you, you love to prove that you are loyal and true. And for those who are purified, they find you always pure. But you'll outwit the crooked and cunning with your craftiness. To the humble you bring heaven's deliverance. But the proud and haughty you disregard.

What breaks open the way? What is the “spear-head” for our breakthrough we so desperately need and await? HIS LOVE. Often, in times of great testing or warfare we feel weighted and heavily burdened. We pick up the heaviness feeling the pressure to overcome and prevail. HOWEVER, this is NOT the correct perspective. We must have the posture we see David has throughout these verses. He has embraced the amazing truth that he will never prevail because of his own strength but rather by trusting fully in the strength of God.

He says he was “at my weakest” and fully admits that his victory came not as a result of his ability to hold on to God but rather because “the Lord held on to me”. And so, we too must learn this powerful place of rest. We can rest in faith, because He will never forsake or fail us. Like David, we are His delight (v19) and He will rescue. His passionate love, set upon us, is an inexorable force that will keep pushing UNTIL it breaks through.

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YOU EMPOWER  
ME FOR VICTORY  
WITH YOUR  
WRAP-AROUND  
PRESENCE!

”

V. 28-31) God, all at once you turned on a floodlight for me! You are the revelation-light in my darkness, and in your brightness I can see the path ahead. With you as my strength I can crush an enemy horde, advancing through every stronghold that stands in front of me. What a God you are! Your path for me has been perfect! All your promises have proven true. What a secure shelter for all those who turn to hide themselves in you! You are the wrap-around God giving grace to me. Could there be any other god like you? You are the only God to be worshiped, for there is not a more secure foundation to build my life upon than you.

Part of David's "suddenly" and breakthrough was the explosion of revelation-light (v.28) into his darkness. That light, understanding, and clarity enables him to advance against his enemy boldly. He doesn't just fight and win; he completely vanquishes with God-given strength to "crush an enemy horde" destroying "every stronghold" (v.29). God's Powerful Protection (V. 32-42)

V. 32-42) You have wrapped me in power, and now you've shared with me your perfection. Through you I ascend to the highest peaks of your glory to stand in the heavenly places, strong and secure in you. You've trained me with the weapons of warfare-worship; now I'll descend into battle with power to chase and conquer my foes. You empower me for victory with your wrap-around presence. Your power within makes me strong to subdue, and by stooping down in gentleness you strengthened me and made me great! You've set me free from captivity and now I'm standing complete, ready to fight some more! I caught up with my enemies and conquered them, and didn't turn back until the war was won! I pinned them to the ground and broke them to pieces. I finished them once and for all; they're as good as dead. You've placed your armor upon me and defeated my enemies, making them bow low at my feet. You've made them all turn tail and run, for through you I've destroyed them all! Forever silenced, they'll never taunt me again. They shouted for help but not one dared to rescue them. They shouted to God but he refused to answer them. So I pulverized them to powder and cast them to the wind. I swept them away like dirt on the floor.



David now ascends in worship and descends upon his adversaries in crushing victory (v.33-34). He is clothed with the presence of God and is not content to merely be rescued but turns to deal the death-blow on his enemy saying, “I...didn’t turn back until the war was won!...I finished them once and for all; they’re as good as dead” (v.37-38). This is the mindset of a faith warrior. We give “no quarter” to the enemy. David showed this same tenacity in his battle against Goliath—he was not content to merely knock him down...he took off his head. Taking off the head speaks of complete defeat. There is no possible comeback from such a vanquishing. This is the victory we have through Christ over EVERY taunting, attacking foe. In battle, the term “no quarter” includes the idea that NO AGREEMENTS are made with the enemy—no treaties, no deals, no bargains. We see this type of absolute annihilation here in Psalm 18, and it encourages us as God’s people to enforce the victory of Christ’s shed blood. Why would we tolerate any influence of the enemy in our lives (thoughts, temptations, fears, idols, or sins) when Christ’s blood purchased our complete freedom? So, let us like David ascend in worship and descend in glory warfare dealing the death-blow!

#### David’s Powerful Praise (V.43-50)

V. 43-50) You gave me victory on every side, for look how the nations come to serve me. Even those I’ve never heard of come and bow at my feet. As soon as they heard of me they submitted to me. Even the rebel foreigners obey my every word. Their rebellion fades away as they come near; trembling in their strongholds, they come crawling out of their hideouts. Cringing in fear before me, their courage is gone. The Almighty is alive and conquers all! Praise is lifted high to the unshakable God! Towering over all, my Savior-God is worthy to be praised! Look how he pays back harm to all who harm me, subduing all the people who come against me. He rescues me from my enemies; he lifts me up high and keeps me out of reach, far from the grasp of my violent foe. This is why I thank God with high praises! I will sing my song to the highest God, so all among the nations will hear me. You have appointed me king and rescued me time and time again with your magnificent miracles. You’ve been merciful and kind to me, your anointed one. This favor will be forever seen upon your loving servant, David, and to all my descendants!

No longer is David surrounded by enemies, but having been brought into a “broad place” (v.19 ) he is surrounded by nations coming to serve him as he serves God’s purpose (See Acts 13:36). God will do the same for us! As we simply, humbly, and passionately choose to serve God with the whole of our lives, He will turn every tragedy into triumph—even making servants of our adversaries and “rebel foreigners”. Wow. Friend, you are on the Lord's side, and like Christ your King, you reign and rule. Seated with Him in heavenly places you will wear the victor’s crown! (See Rev. 12:1 and 2:10.) “This favor will be forever seen upon your loving servant, David, and to all my descendants!”

Here David gives the “Highest God “ his “highest praises” (v46-49).

For David, God is:

Alive

All-conquering

Unshakable

Towering over all

Worthy to be praised

**Let’s Go Deeper!**

**Questions:**

What has God spoken to you through this psalm?

List the metaphors for the voice and words of God from v.12-15. What do they reveal to you about the power contained in each and every word He speaks? (We can picture each word of God as a container of glory and power!)

Jesus said we live by every word He speaks: “He answered, “The Scriptures say: Bread alone will not satisfy, but true life is found in every word, which constantly goes forth from God’s mouth.” (Matthew 4:4) How powerful, relentless, potent, constant, life-giving, and life-sustaining is His Word! Make a solemn commitment to make His word your source of life. See Psalm 1:2.

After studying in Psalm 18 about the power contained within the words of God, how important is it for you to say what God is saying about everything that comes into your day, your life, your mind, your relationships, your health, your finances, etc.?

The “wraparound” presence of God as a shield is spoken of and pictured in this psalm. Look again at verses 2, 30, 32, and 35. What does this reveal to you? How will this revelation help you in the storms, battles, and snares of life?

One of David’s keys to victory revealed in this psalm is given to us in verse 27: “To the humble you bring heaven’s deliverance. But the proud and haughty you disregard.” How amazing that we see no striving here, but rather heaven’s deliverance is brought by the Lord to the humble. Read 1 Pet. 5:5 (five is the number of grace), James 4:6, Prov. 29:23 and Psalm 37:11. List the benefit and wisdom in embracing humility.

### **Face to Face Activations:**

Look again at verse 6: “I cried out to you in my distress, the delivering God, and from your temple-throne you heard my troubled cry. My sobs came right into your heart and you turned your face to rescue me.” Think back on the times when your prayers were literally “sobs” to the Lord. Like David, make the confession, “My sobs came right into Your heart, Lord. Thank you for treasuring my sobs, my cries. Thank you for holding them in Your heart as dear and precious. Thank you that my cries have priority in your throneroom, Lord, and You never ignore my cries.” Write down how it makes you feel, how it strengthens your faith, and how it comforts your heart to know this is how your cries are heard and held by God.

Have you made any peace treaties with the enemy? Is there any area of your life where you have allowed compromise? It may not seem like it is affecting you negatively, but it surely is—it is keeping you from God’s best, the life meant for you when God dreamed you before you were even born. Rise up! Arise out of all low-level living. Like David shows us in Psalm 18, as you humbly partner with God

Almighty you can defeat every enemy, “making them bow low at my feet” (v.39). Renew your vows of devotion today and break all unholy ties.

This psalm is classified as a Royal Psalm of Thanksgiving and is titled simply, “I Love You, Lord!”. November, for many, is a season of Thanksgiving. Spend some time soaking in the revelation of the God of Psalm 18--The Majestic, Powerful, Conquering, Champion, Warrior God...your God. He has never failed you, and He never will. Give Him your own new song of “highest praise” with a grateful heart. How he loves to hear your voice and your declaration, “I love You, Lord!” Remember from verse 1 that the word David used for “love” when he said, “I love You, Lord” carries with it the idea of an embrace, a hug. Give the Lord your hug! Let Him lead you into the wonder of what that could possibly mean.

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