

**Psalm 18:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> I love you, LORD, my strength.

<sup>2</sup> The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

<sup>3</sup> I called to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I have been saved from my enemies. <sup>4</sup> The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me. <sup>5</sup> The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me.

<sup>6</sup> In my distress I called to the LORD; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears. <sup>7</sup> The earth trembled and quaked, and the foundations of the mountains shook; they trembled because he was angry. <sup>8</sup> Smoke rose from his nostrils; consuming fire came from his mouth, burning coals blazed out of it. <sup>9</sup> He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet. *Psalms 18:1-9*

1. Where else in Scripture do you find “my strength” or “my fortress” or “my salvation”?
2. How has God responded to you in your times of distress?
3. What is the meaning of verses 7-9?

**Romans 10:15-17**

<sup>15</sup> And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

<sup>16</sup> But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed our message?” <sup>17</sup> Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.

*Romans 10:5-17 NIV*

1. Verse 15 - Where is this quote from?
2. How does faith come from hearing the message? How do we hear the message?

**Matthew 5:43-48**

<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup> But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> [“In this way you will show you are true sons, etc.”] that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? <sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

*Matthew 5:43-48 NIV*

1. Verse 1 - What does Scripture really say? Is Jesus changing the Law here?
2. How should we pray for those who persecute us or hate us?
3. What type of love is referred to here?
4. Do we get rewards for praying for our enemies? If we do, what are they?
5. Look at Philippians 3:12-14. How does this help explain vs. 48 “be perfect”?
6. Just who is your enemy? Who is your neighbor?