

# Psalm 50

Author: Asaph, David's Chief Musician

Asaph, David's music director, has been credited with penning twelve psalms, or songs. He was appointed by David and served through the rise and fall of the wisest man who ever lived, Solomon. Asaph invites us into the God's courtroom to hear the case God vs. The Faith of God's People.

## The Scene

Do you love a drama with a good court scene? I have to admit, I do. Personally, I have only been a courtroom a couple times. One time, upon entering the room, I became panic-stricken, my pulsed raced, and mind flashed back to reruns of *LA Law*, the court TV drama from the 80's. There I stood, panic-stricken over a minor traffic infraction.

In our psalm, the Judges, the Mighty One (El) God, and the LORD (Yahweh), are in the courtroom. They are at the bench, gavels in hand. Heaven and Earth have been summoned as excellent witnesses, for they have watched God's People—for many generations—and are called to give eyewitness' testimony of their depravity.

Can you image how the defendants felt at facing the heavy charge of falsifying faith? Standing before the Plaintiffs, the defendants must determine if their faith is real, or if their faith is fake.

**Jot down a few emotions you might experience if you were accused of having a fake faith that once was real.**

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## Real Faith

God accuses the defendants of observing the rhetoric of rituals, but losing the real faith they once enjoyed. They were following the Law given to Moses about sacrifices, but they had become more devoted to their acts rather than their purpose.

The rhetoric of rituals captures the heart of God's people today as well. Church and all things about church can easily become ritualistic—and a poor substitute for real faith. God's wants real. God deserves real: real worship, real sacrifice, and a real relationship. And while real comes at a cost, the price you pay is worth it.

**Read 2 Samuel 24:19-24.**

Write David's response to Araunah in verse 24.

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Real faith has a cost. Perhaps the price necessary for real faith is giving up bitterness, surrendering pride, or offering forgiveness. Maybe it's sacrificing the uncertainty of the future or the disappointment of unfulfilled dreams.

What price has God asked you to pay for real faith? Think about it, then write it down.

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### Fake Faith

A counterfeit faith must sicken our Lord. The accused are charged with associating with bad company and rejecting God's discipline and instruction. God charges them with speaking out of both sides of their mouths, of reciting His law and taking His covenant, and then speaking with evil and deceit on their tongues. It is one thing to go through the motions of faith, but it's another to completely reject the Lord's ways while giving the appearance of worshiping Him.

**Read Romans 2:8-9.**

What does Paul call those who reject the truth?

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What awaits those who reject the truth?

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Self-seeking is the exact opposite of what God's expects from those who call Him Lord. The result of self-seeking and self-pleasing is anger and wrath. Who wants that kind of life?

**Read Jeremiah 29:13-14.**

How can you avoid counterfeit faith?

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What will we find when you seek God?

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Real faith honors the Lord. We honor the Lord and develop real faith as we seek Him. *Seek* In the Hebrew, *seek* means to ask, beg, inquire, and or make inquisition. These words require action, and the action of *seeking* is up to us. If we want different, we have to seek different.

About ten years ago, I started seeking with both an "ask and a beg": "How do I love you Lord? Help me love you." He directed me to His Word, the Psalms, in fact, to investigate His truths and to test their authenticity through obedience. My *seeking* involved rising early, reading the Bible, and praying. I don't know what your seeking looks like, but I know that seeking honors God and transforms fake faith unto real faith. Who wants *that* kind of life?