

## Psalm 54

Author: David

As I read today's Psalm, I cannot help but wonder how often I narrowly escaped the grasp of my enemy. And how close have I come to defeat because of someone who was threatened by God's presence?

### Read Psalm 139:7.

How does this Scripture affirm God's protection?

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### Read Hebrews 13:5b.

What does God promise to help us be sure of His protection?

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From the moment David received his anointing (1 Samuel 16), until his death, David enjoyed very little peace. He seemed to be always on the run from his enemies. David knew the agony of defeat, the pain of betrayal, and the deception of being double-crossed. David was betrayed, not once but twice, by the very people he defended. In the wilderness of Ziph, while feeling low and vulnerable, David cries out to God, and God responds. David declares. "Save me, O God, by Your name [renown]. Vindicate me by Your might."

### Read 1 Samuel 23:14.

How do we know God heard David's cries?

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To whom do you cry when you are deep in the wilderness of your "Ziph?" Take a minute to honestly answer this question.

I wish I could say that, without a doubt, my cry for help is similar to David's. But in reality, my cry is usually something like this: "I can't believe this. I have to figure this out. What will others think of me? What should I do?"

Did you notice how many times I used the pronoun "I?" Did you notice whose shoulder I placed the outcome of my trouble upon? "I" have it all wrong. Am I alone?

Speaker and author, Louie Giglio, breaks this truth down into very simple terms in his book, *I Am Not But I Know I Am: Welcome to the Story of God*, on pages 38-40.

I am not the center of everything.

I am not in control.

I am not the solution.

I am not all-powerful.

I am not calling the shots.

I am not the owner of anything.

I am not the Lord.

I am not the solution. I am not calling the shots. I am not the Lord. I am not.

What is your reaction to this “*I am not*” list?

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This list helps me maintain the right perspective. Every now and then I need a healthy dose of reality: my story is not about me! The outcome of my crisis is not up to me. Even though God has gifted me, I do not call the shots or have to have all the answers. I really don't control anything. And because I am so easily deceived, every now and then, it is necessary for me to remind myself who I am *not*. Like me, I wonder if David was trying to maintain his perspective when he said “Your Name and Your might.”

**Read 1 Corinthians 10:31.**

What does this verse tell us about a healthy perspective?

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When our perspective becomes skewed and turns to us instead of God, we become takers rather than givers, prideful rather than humble, and stingy rather than generous. We begin to think, *we are* rather than *we are not*s.

How do we keep the right perspective? In this me-first, gotta-have-mine, it's-all-about-me world, how to make sure God remains in charge He has given us all the answers we need.

Look up each verse, and write a personalized summary of it in the space provided.

**Read Deuteronomy 6:5.**

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**Read Matthew 6:33.**

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**Read John 3:30.**

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