

# Psalm 64

Author: David

David's life was one of conflict and very little peace. Like him, living God's plan for your life is a blessing, but it is not promised to be trouble-free. God surrounds His children with His Presence, power, and provision, but He never promises life without problems. In this Psalm, David has had just about all he can take, so he voices his complaint to God.

## Prayer of Complaint

The Complaint Department is one place that I would never want to work. By the time an individual reaches the Complaint Department, he or she usually has already tried and failed to solve the problem and are ready to talk with someone in charge, often with an angry voice. It takes a special kind of person to hear, and solve, problems. Frankly, I don't think I am that special!

Yet God is that special, and David knows it. So he asks God to pay attention (to hear) to his complaint. The meaning of the word, *complaint*, is *prayer*. Yes, King David, the man after God's own heart (1 Sam.13:14) is praying a prayer of complaint, and that's okay. But he is not the only one who prayed a prayer of complaint.

### Read Job 7:6-11.

In one word, describe how Job was feeling? To whom did he cry out?

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Both David and Job complained to the Lord about their circumstances. I'm not so sure I should feel this way, but this makes me smile. If two of the most well-known men of the Old Testament complained to the Lord, then so can I. Let's be honest. Sometimes life gets really, really hard, and we just need to pour out our emotions out to God—the good, bad, and ugly. Girls, He can handle it. He is God. There is a time for praisin'—*and* a time for protestin'. (Can you hear the southern draw?) Take your complaints, as well as everything else, to God.

### Read 1 Peter 5:7.

What is Peter's advice to those who are dealing with troubles? Why?

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## Casting Our Cares Elsewhere

Thankfully, I have never been on the receiving end of vindictive and or intentional harm. However, I have had untruths said of me, and the old adage, "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me," is simply not true. Words do hurt—as much or more than sticks and stones.

When this has happened to me, I wish I could say that I always took the high road and went straight to God to protest or complain. But I am guilty of going to the phone, instead of going to the Throne. Casting my cares on someone other than God just fans the flame of my already sizzling situation.

**Read Proverbs 16:28.** What is a person who stirs conflict called?

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A perverse or cantankerous person is disagreeable and rejects what is right and good. Continuing to be disagreeable, and discussing troublesome situations with everyone but God, fans the flames of the situation, causing it to grow bigger than it ever should have become. When we fan the flames by going to the phone rather than the throne, our conversations have a tendency to turn slanderous. Our words can be hurtful, tainting the image of the persons involved, to the person we are complaining to. Eventually, the “fire” will go out, but unfortunately, we are never again able to take our hurtful words back.

**Read Ephesians 4:29.**

What kind of talk should come from our mouths?

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### **Sharpening Our Swords**

David likens the tongues of enemies to sharp swords, and their words like deadly arrows ready to ambush the innocent. How different our relationships would be if we sharpened our tongues and shot arrows only of encouragement, love, and confirmation! Since our words are shaped by what is our heart (Luke 6:45), it stands to reason that if we nurture good things in our heart, bad words wouldn't come out of it.

**Read Psalm 119:11.**

What is the best prevention for the wrong things taking residence in our heart?

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By hiding God's Word in our heart, our prayers of complaint will be reshaped quickly into prayers of praise, much like David's. Time spent in His Word will yield the fruit of confident trust in our Heavenly Father that He will take every troublesome situation and work it out for our good and for His glory. His Word will fill us with wisdom to respond to such situations with grace. And His truth will teach us to react with Christ-like character.

I love that this Psalm doesn't tell us not to complain, but instead, it encourages us to keep the conversation confidential—between the Lord and me. Oh, how different life would be if we could just get this right!