

CORE COMPONENTS OF PSALMIC PRAYER

1. **Petition language**
What the psalmist *asks God to do*
2. **Desire language**
What the psalmist *believes will satisfy*
3. **Confidence language**
What the psalmist *rests in as already true*

These are not redundant. They form a progression:

- **Desire shapes petition**
- **Petition matures into confidence**
- **Confidence stabilizes desire**

Why this matters (textually, not devotionally)

When you do this, you'll notice something consistent:

- The psalmist rarely asks first
- Desire is often clarified **before** petition
- Confidence frequently appears **after** petition, not before
- In some psalms, confidence replaces petition entirely

This shows that the Psalms are not just prayers, but **formation texts** that reshape:

- what is wanted,
- how God is approached,
- and where rest is finally found.

PSALMIC DESIRE

LONGING / LOVE FOR GOD'S WORD

Psalm 1:2

But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and
night.

VISION / LIKENESS

Psalm 17:15

And I—in righteousness I will see your
face;
when I awake, I will be satisfied with
seeing your likeness.

SEEKING GOD / GOD'S FACE

Psalm 24:6

Such is the generation of those who seek
him,
who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

Psalm 27:8

My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"
Your face, Lord, I will seek.

DWELLING / GOD'S PRESENCE

Psalm 26:8

I love the house where you live, O Lord,
the place where your glory dwells.

Psalm 27:4

One thing I ask of the Lord,
this is what I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.

Psalm 84:2

My soul yearns, even faints,
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh cry out
for the living God.

WAITING / HOPE

Psalm 33:20

We wait in hope for the Lord;
he is our help and our shield.

Psalm 130:6

My soul waits for the Lord
more than watchmen wait for the
morning,
more than watchmen wait for the
morning.

SEEKING THE LORD (GENERAL)

Psalm 34:10

Those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

DESIRE FORMATION (THE HEART)

Psalm 37:4

Delight yourself in the Lord
and he will give you the desires of your
heart.

PSALMIC PRAYERS

Psalm 3

Arise, O Lord!
Deliver me, O my God!
Strike all my enemies on the jaw;
break the teeth of the wicked.

May your blessing be on your people.

Psalm 4

Answer me when I call to you,
O my righteous God.
Give me relief from my distress;
be merciful to me and hear my prayer.

Let the light of your face shine upon us,
O Lord.

Psalm 5

Give ear to my words, O Lord,
consider my sighing.

Listen to my cry for help,
my King and my God,
for to you I pray.

In the morning, O Lord, you hear my
voice;
in the morning I lay my requests before
you
and wait in expectation.

Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness
because of my enemies—
make straight your way before me.

Declare them guilty, O God!
Let their intrigues be their downfall.

Banish them for their many sins,
for they have rebelled against you.

But let all who take refuge in you be glad;
let them ever sing for joy.
Spread your protection over them,
that those who love your name may
rejoice in you.

Psalm 6

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger
or discipline me in your wrath.

Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am faint;
O Lord, heal me, for my bones are in
agony.

My soul is in anguish.
How long, O Lord, how long?

Turn, O Lord, and deliver me;
save me because of your unfailing love.

Psalm 7

O Lord my God, I take refuge in you;
save and deliver me from all who pursue
me,

Arise, O Lord, in your anger;
rise up against the rage of my enemies.
Awake, my God; decree justice.

Let the assembled peoples gather
around you.
Rule over them from on high.

O Lord, judge the peoples;
judge me, O Lord, according to my
righteousness,
according to my integrity, O Most High.

Bring to an end the violence of the
wicked
and make the righteous secure—

Psalm 9

O Lord, see how my enemies persecute me!
Have mercy and lift me up from the gates of death,

Arise, O Lord, let not man triumph;
let the nations be judged in your presence.

Strike them with terror, O Lord;
let the nations know they are but men.

Psalm 10

Why, O Lord, do you stand far off?
Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?

Break the arm of the wicked and evil man;
call him to account for his wickedness that would not be found out.

Psalm 12

Help, O Lord, for the godly are no more;
the faithful have vanished from among men.

May the Lord cut off all flattering lips
and every boastful tongue

Psalm 13

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?

Look on me and answer, O Lord my God.
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death;

Psalm 16

Keep me safe, O God,
for in you I take refuge.

Psalm 17

Hear, O Lord, my righteous plea;
listen to my cry.
Give ear to my prayer—
it does not rise from deceitful lips.

May my vindication come from you;
may your eyes see what is right.

Show the wonder of your great love,
you who save by your right hand
those who take refuge in you from their foes.

Keep me as the apple of your eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings

Rise up, O Lord, confront them, bring them down;
rescue me from the wicked by your sword.

Psalm 18

I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise,
and I am saved from my enemies.

Psalm 19

Forgive my hidden faults.

Keep your servant also from willful sins;
may they not rule over me.

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer

Psalm 20

May the Lord answer you when you are
in distress;
may the name of the God of Jacob
protect you.

May he send you help from the sanctuary
and grant you support from Zion.

May he remember all your sacrifices
and accept your burnt offerings.

May he give you the desire of your heart
and make all your plans succeed.

May the Lord grant all your requests.

Psalm 21

Be exalted, O Lord, in your strength;

Psalm 22

My God, my God, why have you forsaken
me?

Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from the words of my groaning?

Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near
and there is no one to help.

But you, O Lord, be not far off;
O my Strength, come quickly to help me.

Deliver my life from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the
dogs.

Rescue me from the mouth of the lions;
save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

Psalm 25

Do not let me be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Show me your ways, O Lord,
teach me your paths;

guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my Savior,
and my hope is in you all day long.

Remember, O Lord, your great mercy
and love,
for they are from of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth
and my rebellious ways;

Psalm 26

Vindicate me, O Lord,
for I have led a blameless life;
I have trusted in the Lord without
wavering.

Test me, O Lord, and try me,
examine my heart and my mind;

Redeem me and be merciful to me.

Psalm 27

Hear my voice when I call, O Lord;
be merciful to me and answer me.

Do not hide your face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger.

Do not reject me or forsake me,
O God my Savior.

Teach me your way, O Lord;
lead me in a straight path
because of my oppressors.

Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,

Psalm 28

To you I call, O Lord my Rock;
do not turn a deaf ear to me.

Hear my cry for mercy
as I call to you for help,

Do not drag me away with the wicked,

Repay them for their deeds
and for their evil work;

Psalm 30

O Lord my God, I called to you for help
and you healed me.

Psalm 31

Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I am in
distress;

Turn your ear to me,
come quickly to my rescue;

Into your hands I commit my spirit;
redeem me, O Lord, the God of truth.

Let me not be put to shame, O Lord,
for I have cried out to you.

Psalm 35

Contend, O Lord, with those who
contend with me;
fight against those who fight against me.

Take up shield and buckler;
arise and come to my aid.

Let those who seek my life
be disgraced and put to shame;

Psalm 38

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger
or discipline me in your wrath.

Have mercy on me, O Lord,
for I am faint;

Come quickly to help me, O Lord my
Savior.

Psalm 39

Show me, O Lord, my life's end
and the number of my days;

Hear my prayer, O Lord,
listen to my cry for help;

Psalm 40

Do not withhold your mercy from me, O
Lord;

Be pleased, O Lord, to save me;
O Lord, come quickly to help me.

Psalm 41

Have mercy on me, O Lord;
raise me up

Psalm 43

Vindicate me, O God,
and plead my cause
against an ungodly nation;

Send forth your light and your truth,
let them guide me

Psalm 44

Awake, O Lord! Why do you sleep?
Rouse yourself!

Why do you hide your face
and forget our misery and oppression?

Rise up and help us;
redeem us because of your unfailing
love.

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your unfailing love;
according to your great compassion
blot out my transgressions.

Wash away all my iniquity
and cleanse me from

Psalm 52

Surely God will bring you down to
everlasting ruin:
He will snatch you up and tear you from
your tent;
he will uproot you from the land of the
living.

Psalm 54

Save me, O God, by your name;
vindicate me by your might.

Hear my prayer, O God;
listen to the words of my mouth.

Psalm 55

Listen to my prayer, O God,
do not ignore my plea;

hear me and answer me.

Let death take my enemies by surprise;
let them go down alive to the grave,
for evil finds lodging among them.

Psalm 56

Be merciful to me, O God,
for men hotly pursue me;

Record my lament;
list my tears on your scroll—
are they not in your record?

Psalm 57

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy
on me,
for in you my soul takes refuge.

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens;
let your glory be over all the earth.

Psalm 58

Break the teeth in their mouths, O God;
tear out, O Lord, the fangs of the lions.

Psalm 59

Deliver me from my enemies, O God;
protect me from those who rise up
against me.

Deliver me from evildoers
and save me from bloodthirsty men.

See how they lie in wait for me!
Fierce men conspire against me
for no offense or sin of mine, O Lord.

Rise up to help me;
look on my plight!

Consume them in wrath,
consume them till they are no more.

Psalm 60

Save us and help us with your right hand,
that those you love may be delivered.

Give us aid against the enemy,
for the help of man is worthless.

Psalm 61

Hear my cry, O God;
listen to my prayer.

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I,

Psalm 63

O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek
you;

Psalm 64

Hear me, O God, as I voice my
complaint;
protect my life from the threat of the
enemy.

Hide me from the conspiracy of the
wicked,
from that noisy crowd of evildoers.

Psalm 65

Praise awaits you, O God, in Zion;
to you our vows will be fulfilled.

You who hear prayer,
to you all men will come.

Psalm 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face shine upon us,

Psalm 68

May God arise,
may his enemies be scattered;
may his foes flee before him.

Psalm 69

Save me, O God,
for the waters have come up to my neck.

Answer me, O Lord, out of the goodness
of your love;
in your great mercy turn to me.

Do not hide your face from your servant;
answer me quickly,
for I am in trouble.

Come near and rescue me;
redeem me because of my foes.

Pour out your wrath on them;
let your fierce anger overtake them.

Psalm 70

Hasten, O God, to save me;
O Lord, come quickly to help me.

May those who seek my life
be put to shame and confusion;

Psalm 71

In you, O Lord, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

Rescue me and deliver me in your
righteousness;
turn your ear to me and save me.

Be my rock of refuge,
to which I can always go;

Do not cast me away when I am old;
do not forsake me when my strength is
gone.

O God, do not be far from me;
O my God, come quickly to help me.

Psalm 72

Endow the king with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness.

Psalm 73

Whom have I in heaven but you?
And earth has nothing I desire besides
you.

Psalm 74

Why have you rejected us forever, O
God?
Why does your anger smolder against
the sheep of your pasture?

Turn your steps toward these everlasting
ruins,
all this destruction the enemy has
brought on the sanctuary.

Rise up, O God, and defend your cause;

Do not ignore the clamor of your

Psalm 75

We give thanks to you, O God,
we give thanks, for your Name is near;

Psalm 76

Break the teeth of the lions in their
mouths, O God;
tear out, O Lord, the fangs of the lions.

Psalm 77

Will the Lord reject forever?
Will he never show his favor again?

Has his unfailing love vanished forever?
Has his promise failed for all time?

Has God forgotten to be merciful?
Has he in anger withheld his
compassion?

Psalm 79

O God, the nations have invaded your
inheritance;
they have defiled your holy temple,
they have reduced Jerusalem to rubble.

Help us, O God our Savior,
for the glory of your name;
deliver us and forgive our sins
for your name's sake.

Why should the nations say,
"Where is their God?"
Before our eyes, make known among the
nations
that you avenge the outpoured blood of
your servants.

May the groans of the prisoners come
before you;
by the strength of your arm
preserve those condemned to die.

Psalm 80

Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a flock;

Restore us, O God;
make your face shine upon us,
that we may be saved.

Restore us, O God Almighty;
make your face shine upon us,
that we may be saved.

Restore us, O Lord God Almighty;
make your face shine upon us,
that we may be saved.

Psalm 81

Hear me, O Lord;
do not ignore me.

Psalm 82

Rise up, O God, judge the earth,
for all the nations are your inheritance.

Psalm 83

O God, do not keep silent;
be not quiet, O God, be not still.

Make them like tumbleweed, O my God,
like chaff before the wind.

Cover their faces with shame
so that men will seek your name, O Lord.

Psalm 84

Hear my prayer, O Lord God Almighty;
listen to me, O God of Jacob.

Better is one day in your courts
than a thousand elsewhere.

Psalm 85

Restore us again, O God our Savior,
and put away your displeasure toward
us.

Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger through all
generations?

Show us your unfailing love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

Psalm 86

Hear, O Lord, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.

Guard my life, for I am devoted to you.
Save your servant who trusts in you.

Have mercy on me, O Lord,
for I call to you all day long.

Bring joy to your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Teach me your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart,
that I may fear your name.

Turn to me and have mercy on me;
grant your strength to your servant
and save the son of your maidservant.

Give me a sign of your goodness,
that my enemies may see it and be put to
shame,
for you, O Lord, have helped me and
comforted me.

Psalm 88

O Lord, the God who saves me,
day and night I cry out before you.

May my prayer come before you;
turn your ear to my cry.

Why, O Lord, do you reject me
and hide your face from me?

Psalm 89

How long, O Lord? Will you hide yourself
forever?
How long will your wrath burn like fire?

Remember how fleeting is my life.
For what futility you have created all
men!

Psalm 90

Teach us to number our days aright,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Relent, O Lord! How long will it be?
Have compassion on your servants.

Satisfy us in the morning with your
unfailing love,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all
our days.

Make us glad for as many days as you
have afflicted us,
for as many years as we have seen
trouble.

May the favor of the Lord our God rest
upon us;
establish the work of our hands for us—
yes, establish the work of our hands.

Psalm 94

Rise up, O God, who judges the earth;
pay back to the proud what they
deserve.

Psalm 95

Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our Maker;

Psalm 98

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;

Psalm 99

Exalt the Lord our God
and worship at his holy mountain,

Psalm 100

Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;

Psalm 101

Let me live in your tent forever
and take refuge in the shelter of your
wings.

Psalm 102

Hear my prayer, O Lord;
let my cry for help come to you.

Do not hide your face from me
when I am in distress.
Turn your ear to me;
when I call, answer me quickly.

Hear my prayer, O Lord;
let my cry for help come to you.

Psalm 106

Save us, O Lord our God,
and gather us from the nations,
that we may give thanks to your holy
name
and glory in your praise.

Psalm 107

Let them give thanks to the Lord for his
unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for men.

Psalm 108

Save us and help us with your right hand,
that those you love may be delivered.

Give us aid against the enemy,
for the help of man is worthless.

Psalm 109

O God, whom I praise,
do not remain silent,

Appoint an evil man to oppose him;
let an accuser stand at his right hand.

May his days be few;
may another take his place of leadership.

May his children be fatherless
and his wife a widow.

May his children wander about and beg;
may they be driven from their ruined
homes.

Let no one extend kindness to him
or take pity on his fatherless children.

Psalm 115

Not to us, O Lord, not to us
but to your name be the glory,
because of your love and faithfulness.

Psalm 116

O Lord, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the son of your
maidservant;
you have freed me from my chains.

Psalm 118

O Lord, save us;
O Lord, grant us success.

Psalm 119

Deal with your servant according to your
love
and teach me your decrees.

Open my eyes that I may see
wonderful things in your law.

Give me understanding,
and I will keep your law
and obey it with all my heart.

Direct me in the path of your commands,
for there I find delight.

Turn my heart toward your statutes
and not toward selfish gain.

Turn my eyes away from worthless things;
preserve my life according to your word.

Fulfill your promise to your servant,
so that you may be feared.

Take away the disgrace I dread,
for your laws are good.

Psalm 120

Save me, O Lord,
from lying lips
and from deceitful tongues.

Psalm 122

May there be peace within your walls
and security within your citadels.

Psalm 123

Have mercy on us, O Lord, have mercy
on us,
for we have endured much contempt.

Psalm 125

Do good, O Lord, to those who are good,
to those who are upright in heart.

Psalm 126

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like streams in the Negev.

Psalm 127

May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life;

Psalm 128

May the Lord bless you from Zion;
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.

Psalm 129

May all who hate Zion
be turned back in shame.

Psalm 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
O Lord, hear my voice.
Let your ears be attentive
to my cry for mercy.

Psalm 132

Arise, O Lord, and come to your resting
place,
you and the ark of your might.

May your priests be clothed with
righteousness;
may your saints sing for joy.

For the sake of David your servant,
do not reject your anointed one.

Psalm 134

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary
and praise the Lord.

Psalm 137

Remember, O Lord, what the Edomites
did
on the day Jerusalem fell.

O Daughter of Babylon, doomed to destruction,
happy is he who repays you
for what you have done to us—

Psalm 138

When I called, you answered me;
you made me bold and stouthearted.

Psalm 139

Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.

See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 140

Rescue me, O Lord, from evil men;
protect me from men of violence,

Keep me, O Lord, from the hands of the
wicked;
protect me from men of violence
who plan to trip my feet.

Let the heads of those who surround me
be covered with the trouble their lips
have caused.

Psalm 141

O Lord, I call to you; come quickly to me.
Hear my voice when I call to you.

Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord;
keep watch over the door of my lips.

Let not my heart be drawn to what is evil
or take part in wicked deeds.

Psalm 142

I cry aloud to the Lord;
I lift up my voice to the Lord for mercy.

Listen to my cry,
for I am in desperate need;
rescue me from those who pursue me,
for they are too strong for me.

Set me free from my prison,
that I may praise your name.

Psalm 143

O Lord, hear my prayer,
listen to my cry for mercy;

Do not bring your servant into judgment,
for no one living is righteous before you.

Answer me quickly, O Lord;
my spirit fails.

Do not hide your face from me
or I will be like those who go down to the
pit.

Teach me to do your will,
for you are my God;
may your good Spirit
lead me on level ground.

For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve
my life;
in your righteousness, bring me out of
trouble.

In your unfailing love, silence my
enemies;
destroy all my foes,
for I am your servant.

Psalm 144

Praise be to the Lord my Rock,
who trains my hands for war,
my fingers for battle.

Psalm 147

Heal the brokenhearted
and bind up their wounds.

Psalm 149

Let the saints rejoice in this honor
and sing for joy on their beds.

