
HOLY HATRED AND HOLY LOVE

PSALM 5



Have you ever been hated by someone? It's a horrendous experience isn't it? In the ministry, that happens more frequently than you think. It's happened to me a few times in the past 30 years. For no good reason, people decided to dedicate themselves to my downfall or even my destruction. They did everything they could to turn other people against me. They lied about me, they attacked me, they simply made things up.

But, you don't need to be in ministry for this to happen. Those who were our friends can turn into our enemies. It can even happen within our own family. It's a scary experience which makes us feel lonely, defenseless, and helpless, especially because we cannot descend to their tactics. In Psalm 5, we learn how King David responded to his enemies. He found a double comfort, God's holy hatred and God's holy love.

LEARNING

GOD HATES WICKEDNESS (4-6, 9-10)

The Psalms don't progress in a straight line from A to Z. They tend to cycle. For example, in this Psalm, the cycle is God's love (1-3), God's hate (4-6), God's love (7-8), God's hate (9-10), God's love (11-12).

The 'hate' verses take two different forms. There are verses stated negatively. **"You are not a God who delights in wickedness"** (4). God does not love evil. But then he goes further and states it positively. **"The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man"** (5-6). It's not just no love, it's active hate.

God's hate is not like our hate or our enemies' hate. It is a holy hatred, which is almost impossible for us to imagine. But this sin-free hatred can be a comfort to us when we experience sin-filled hatred. We don't need to hate back, because God does it for us, perfectly. We don't need to fight because God is fighting for us.

GOD'S SIN-FREE HATRED PROTECTS US FROM PEOPLE'S SINFUL HATRED.

So God opposes my enemies. But what about me? How does he feel towards me?

GOD LOVES RIGHTEOUSNESS (1-3, 7-8, 11-12)

David then encouraged us to follow him in thinking about God's love for him in the midst of his enemies' hatred. **"But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you. Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me"** (7-8). God's abundant love for him sustains him in abundant worship and abundant holiness.

No wonder that he can end the Psalm with the joy-filled words: **"But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you. For you bless the righteous, O Lord; you cover him with favor as with a shield"** (11-12). God's love is his refuge, protection, and shield, therefore joy, joy, joy!

**GOD'S LOVE IS A FORTRESS
MORE THAN A FEELING.**

LOVING

God's holy hatred and God's holy love! What a double shield for us in the midst of our enemies' hatred and hostility. Let's use these to fend off not just our enemies' hatred but our own feelings of loneliness and helplessness. Instead let's love and rejoice in God's perfect hatred and perfect love, as David did.

LIVING

Let your enemies' hatred drive you to God's holy hatred and God's holy love for double protection and double comfort.
