



**DAILY ENCOURAGEMENTS**  
**Carstairs-Bancroft United Church**  
December 8, 2023



Photo: Our Daily Bread

## WORTHY OF ALL PRAISE

*I love you, Lord, my strength.*  
Psalm 18:1

**READ Psalm 18:1-6**

Many consider Ferrante and Teicher to be the greatest piano duet team of all time. Their collaborative presentations were so precise that their style was described as four hands but only one mind. Hearing their music, one can begin to grasp the amount of effort required to perfect their craft.

But there's more. They loved what they did. In fact, even after they had retired in 1989, Ferrante and Teicher would occasionally show up at a local piano store just to play an impromptu concert. They simply loved making music.

David also loved making music—but he teamed up with God to give his song a higher purpose. His psalms affirm his struggle-filled life and his desire to live in deep dependence upon God. Yet, in the midst of his personal failures and imperfections, his praise expressed a kind of spiritual “perfect pitch,” acknowledging the greatness and goodness of God even in the darkest of times. The heart behind David's praise is simply stated in Psalm 18:1, which reads, “I love you, Lord, my strength.”

David continued, “I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise” (v. 3) and turned to Him “in my distress” (v. 6). Regardless of our situation, may we likewise lift our hearts to praise and worship our God. He's worthy of all praise!

By **Bill Crowder**

### **PRAY & REFLECT**

**Heavenly Father, You've put a new song in my mouth. Please help my worship to express Your true goodness and greatness. Amen**

In what ways do you share your love for God with Him and with others? What might be standing in the way of your worship?

### **SCRIPTURE INSIGHT**

Second Samuel 22 is nearly identical to Psalm 18, and the previous chapter (2 Samuel 21) provides some historical background for the psalm and the danger David faced. He'd gone into battle with his men when a mighty warrior challenged him (21:15-16). The text reads, “Ishbi-Benob, one of the descendants of Rapha, whose bronze spearhead weighed three hundred shekels [about 7.5 lb. or 3.4 kg] and who was armed with a new sword, said he would kill David” (v. 16). David's warrior Abishai intervened and killed the Philistine. David's men then insisted that he never again go into battle with them “so that the lamp of Israel will not be extinguished” (v. 17). But who were the descendants of Rapha? They were exceptionally large warriors (vv. 18-22) whose size easily intimidated their opponents given the nature of the hand-to-hand warfare of the day. – By **Tim Gustafson**

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