

FBC Service Sunday August 23, 2026, Psalm 24

Intro: Summer in the Psalms

Open the Doors to the King

Key Verse: *“Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.”* Psalm 24:7

Introduction: There are some visitors for whom you really prepare.

If someone tells you, “I’ll drop by sometime,” you probably don’t change your whole day.

But imagine receiving word that the King was coming to your home.

Man, wouldn’t things suddenly look different.

All of a sudden you would notice things you had stopped noticing. You would see the dust in the corner. You would straighten what had become untidy. You would make sure the kitchen was spotless.

Why?

Because the importance of the visitor changes the way you prepare for his arrival.

Psalm 24 announces that Someone is coming.

Not merely a teacher. Not merely a prophet. Not merely a religious leader.

The King of Glory Is Coming!

And Psalm 24 asks us some searching questions:

Who is this King? Who is ready to stand in His presence?

And perhaps most importantly:

Are the doors of my life open to Him?

David begins Psalm 24 by looking at the whole world.

Then he looks at the human heart.

And finally he looks toward the gates and cries: *“Lift up your heads, you gates...that the King of glory may come in.”*

Psalm 24 takes us from **creation**, to **consecration**, to **coronation**.

And it has something powerful to say to believers today.

Remember Who Owns Everything Psalm 24:1–2

“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”

David begins with a declaration that runs directly against the spirit of our age:

God Owns It All

We talk about *my* house. *My* money. *My* possessions. *My* career. *My* plans. *My* time. Even *my* life.

But David says: **It all belongs to God.**

The house we live in belongs to Him. The money in our bank account belongs to Him.

The abilities we possess came from Him. The years allotted to us are given by Him.

Every breath we take is a gift from Him.

And then David goes even further.

Not only does everything we possess belong to God.

We Belong to God. Verse 1

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”

That changes everything.

The Christian life is not inviting God into a little corner of *my* life.

It’s recognizing: **“Lord, this life was Yours all along.”**

Paul says: *“You are not your own; you were bought with a price.”* 1 Corinthians 6:19–20

Perhaps one of the greatest spiritual struggles we have is not believing in God.

It is embracing the astounding truth of verse 1

We say: “Lord, You can have Sunday morning.”

But what about Monday morning?

“Lord, You can have my worship.” But what about my wallet?

“Lord, You can have my prayers.” But what about my plans?

“Lord, You can have my eternity.” But what about my today?

If He Is Lord of All, He Must Be Lord of Me.

There is enormous freedom for us when we finally understand this.

I don’t have to carry the world. **It belongs to Him.**

I don’t have to control tomorrow. **It belongs to Him.**

I don’t have to live anxiously clutching everything I possess. **It belongs to Him.**

The earth is the Lord's. The future is the Lord's. The Church is the Lord's.

And I am the Lord's.

Who Can Stand Before Him Psalm 24:3

David now moves from the whole earth to the human heart.

“Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may stand in his holy place?”

That's a serious question. David does not ask: **Who may attend church?**

He asks: **Who may stand before a holy God?**

When Isaiah saw the Lord he cried: *“Woe to me!”*

When Peter encountered the power of Jesus he said: *“Go away from me Lord; I am a sinful man!”*

When John saw the glorified Christ he fell at His feet.

Grace allows us to come boldly before God, **but grace should never make us careless about the God before whom we come. He's not the Man upstairs – He's Almighty God!**

There is a difference between intimacy and irreverence.

We can call Him Father and know Him personally, but He is still holy.

So David asks: *who can stand in his holy place?*

God Wants Clean Hands and A Pure Heart Psalm 24:4

David answers: *“The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god.”*

The hands speak about **what we do**. The heart speaks about **who we are inside**.

God is interested in both.

Jesus confronted religious people who looked impressive outwardly but were spiritually bankrupt inwardly.

Christianity is never merely about appearances.

We can sing the hymns. Carry our Bibles. Attend services. Say the prayers. Use Christian language.

And still have something wrong in the heart. God says: **“I want your heart.”**

David prayed: *“Create in me a clean heart, O God.”* Psalm 51:10

Psalm 24 gives us an opportunity to ask ourselves: How Are My Hands?

Is there something I am doing that I know does not honour Christ?

And: **How Is My Heart?**

Is there anything I would be ashamed to bring into the light?

David also says: *“who does not trust in an idol...”*

An idol is anything that occupies the place that belongs to God.

And idols today do not normally stand on shelves made of wood or stone.

They may look like this. Success. Comfort. Possessions. Approval. Pleasure.

So here is the challenge of Psalm 24:

“Is My Heart Really His?”

Realize That We Cannot Clean Ourselves

Who among us can say: “My hands have always been clean.” Who among us can say,

“My heart has always been pure.” Who among us can say, “I’ve never put anything ahead of God.”

None of us. So how can we ascend the hill of the Lord?

How can people like us stand in His holy place?

This is where Psalm 24 ultimately points us toward Jesus.

There is only One whose hands were perfectly clean.

There is only One whose heart was absolutely pure.

There is only One who perfectly fulfilled the righteousness God requires.

Jesus Christ.

Amazingly, the One who had clean hands, allowed those hands to be pierced for people whose hands were stained with sin.

The One with the pure heart went to the cross for people whose hearts had wandered far from God.

The gospel is not: **“Clean yourself up enough so God will accept you.”**

The gospel is: **“Come to Jesus, and He will cleanse you.”**

That means there is hope for every one of us.

We don’t climb **God’s holy hill** by our own goodness. **We Come Through Christ.**

And when we come sincerely to Him, He doesn’t merely forgive our past.

He begins changing our present. He gives us a desire for clean hands.

He creates within us a hunger for a pure heart.

Seek His Face, Not Just His Hand Psalm 24:5–6

David describes people who receive blessing from God and then says:

“Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face...”

I love that expression. They seek His face.

There’s a difference between seeking God’s **hand** and seeking God’s **face**.

We seek His hand when we primarily want what He can give us.

“Lord help me.” “Lord heal me.” “Lord provide for me.” “Lord, solve this problem.”

And there is nothing wrong with bringing our needs to God.

Jesus taught us to pray for our daily bread.

But spiritual maturity begins to say:

“Lord, I don’t only want what You can give me. I want You.”

The Psalmist says elsewhere: Psalm 27:8

“My heart says of you, ‘Seek his face!’ Your face LORD, I will seek.”

There is a Christianity that knows about God.

And there is a Christianity that **longs for God**.

There is a Christianity satisfied with religious activity.

And there is a Christianity that says:

“I want to know Jesus more deeply.”

Paul had known Christ for years when he wrote: **Philippians 3:10**

“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection.”

Could that become our prayer? Not merely for another blessing. Not merely for another answered prayer. Not merely for another church service. **But I Want to Seek Your Face.**

Open The Doors to The King Psalm 24:7–10

Now the Psalm changes dramatically. It’s almost as though music begins to swell.

David cries: *“Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.”*

Then comes the question: *“Who is this King of glory?”*

And the answer: *“The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle.”*

Again: *“Lift up your heads, you gates...”*

Again: *“Who is he, this King of glory?”*

And the Psalm finishes triumphantly: *“The LORD Almighty, he is the King of glory.”*

The King Is at the Door.

This whole psalm was probably composed at the time of bringing the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem. The first half was chanted as the procession wound its way up the hillside.

The advancing choir summons the gates to open in the grand words: *‘Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.’*

For Christians, it’s difficult to read those words without thinking of Jesus.

The One Who Came Humbly to Bethlehem Is the King of Glory.

The One who walked the dusty roads of Galilee is the King of Glory.

The One who touched lepers is the King of Glory.

The One who calmed the storm is the King of Glory.

The One who carried the cross is the King of Glory.

The One who walked out of the tomb is the King of Glory.

The One who ascended into heaven is the King of Glory.

And the One who will come again - **is the King of Glory! Revelation 19:16**

Revelation describes Him as: *“King of Kings and Lord of Lords.”*

And yet here is the astonishing thing. **This King desires entrance into ordinary human lives.**

Psalm 24 lays before us a great personal question:

What Doors Have I Kept Closed to Jesus?

Could it be the door marked: **My Plans.**

Could it be the door marked: **My Finances.**

Could it be the door marked: **My Relationships.**

Could it be the door marked: **My Past.**

Could it be the door marked: **My Future.**

Perhaps there is a door marked: **Private — Keep Out.**

Jesus did not come merely to be a guest in our lives. **He came to be king.**

Stop Giving Jesus Partial Access

Imagine giving someone the keys to your house but saying:

“You’re welcome here. Make yourself at home. **But don’t open that door.**

Don’t look in that cupboard. Don’t go downstairs. And definitely don’t enter that room.”

That isn’t really giving them the house.

Sometimes our relationship with Jesus can become like that.

“Lord, you may have my worship—but not my ambitions.”

“You may have my Sunday—but not my Monday.”

“You may have my public life—but not my private thoughts.”

“You may have my future—but please don’t interfere too much with my present.”

Psalm 24 Says: Open the Gates!

Not halfway. Not occasionally. Not only when life becomes difficult. **Open them wide.**

Because the One asking entrance is not an enemy coming to destroy you.

He Is the King of Glory.

The King who loves you. The King who died for you. The King who conquered death for you.

The King who knows what is best for you. The King who promises never to leave you.

Why would we keep the door closed to Him?

Conclusion — Is There a Door That Needs to Open?

Psalm 24 began with: “*The earth is the LORD’s...*”

And it ends with: “*He is the King of glory.*”

Between those two statements stands **you and me.**

Everything belongs to Him.

The One who is perfectly holy calls us to clean hands and pure hearts.

Through Christ He provides the cleansing we could never provide for ourselves.

He calls us to seek His face. And then the King stands before the gates.

So let me leave you with one question:

Is There a Door in Your Life That You Have Not Fully Opened to Jesus?

Maybe you have been a Christian for fifty years. That does not mean there aren't still doors.

Maybe there is an old hurt you refuse to surrender.

A habit you have learned to excuse. A relationship you know needs attention.

A bitterness you have carried too long. A decision you're afraid to place into God's hands.

A part of your future you are desperately trying to control.

Perhaps today the Lord is saying: **"Open that door."**

Don't settle for having Jesus somewhere in your life.

Let Him Reign Over All of It.

Open the door to your plans. Open the door to your family. Open the door to your finances.

Open the door to your fears. Open the door to your disappointments.

Open the door to your future. Open the door to the deepest places of your heart.

And say: **"Lord Jesus, from this moment on there will be no locked rooms. No hidden corners. No territory marked 'Mine.'**

You are my Saviour. You are my Lord. You are my King."

Then hear the words of the Psalm once more:

"Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in."

And who is this King of glory?

He is the One who created you. He is the One who knows you. He is the One who loved you.

He is the One who died for you. He is the One who rose for you.

He is the One who walks with you. He is the One who is coming again.

Jesus Christ Is the King of Glory.

So my church family, **Lift up the gates. Open wide the doors.**

And let the King of Glory come in.