



# Midweek Study

Rev. Clayton Carnall • Senior Associate Pastor



## Walk by Faith

### *Psalm 56*

#### **The Setting: Faith in a Hard Place**

We often picture David as a powerful king, secure and admired, but Psalm 56 comes from a very different season. He is on the run from Saul, alone and vulnerable. After receiving help from the priest Ahimelech, an act that led to the massacre of an entire priestly community, David flees to Gath, the hometown of Goliath, carrying Goliath's own sword.

At this point, David has no army, no support, and no safety. His decision to go to Gath reveals not confidence, but desperation. When recognized, he becomes afraid for his life and narrowly escapes by pretending to be insane.

Psalm 56 is written in that moment; when David is alone, desperate, and afraid. Yet it is here that he declares:

*"Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You." (Psalm 56:3)*

Fear makes us feel:

- Alone (isolated)
- Desperate (doing things we never thought we would ever do)
- Afraid ("very much afraid" – 1 Sam. 21:12)

**Principle:** Fear is revealing. God is refocusing.

### **1. God Is Gracious (vv. 1–4)**

**The Pressure** *"For there are many who fight against me" (Psalm 56:2)*

- Constant attacks
- Personal opposition
- Relentless pursuit

**The Response** *“Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.” (Psalm 56:3)*

- Fear is acknowledged, not ignored
- Faith is chosen, not assumed

**Principle:** God strips things away so all we have is Him.

**Truth Anchor:** *“What can flesh do to me?” (Psalm 56:4)*

- God’s Word is reliable
- Man is only “flesh” (limited)

**Principle:** Fear focuses on *me* → Faith focuses on *God*.

## 2. God Is Fully Aware (vv. 5-11)

### God Sees Your Struggles

- Enemies pursue, twist, and scheme
- Pressure is constant and exhausting

**Principle:** The enemy is the master at wearing us down. Anchor your life in Christ.

### God Sees Your Tears *“You put my tears in Your bottle.” (Psalm 56:8)*

- Every tear counted
- Every step known
- Nothing overlooked

**Principle:** You are never unseen or forgotten

### God Sees Your Trust (vv. 10-11)

*“In the Lord, I will praise His word,  
In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid.  
What can man do to me?” (Psalm 56:10-11)*

- Remember God’s word
- Truth repeated strengthens confidence in God

**Principle:** Faith grows from remembering God’s past faithfulness

## 3. God Is Faithful (vv. 12-13)

### Gratitude Before Deliverance *“I will render praises to You” (Psalm 56:12)*

- David praises God *before* rescue comes

### Guidance Through Hardship *“That I may walk before God...” (Psalm 56:13)*

- Trials refocus our direction
- God uses pressure to realign our path

**Response:** Worship + Walk with Him