

# Psalms 25:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted.

## Analysis

---

The cry 'Turn thee unto me, and have mercy upon me; for I am desolate and afflicted' expresses complete dependence on divine compassion. 'Turn thee unto me' asks God to focus His attention on the sufferer. Acknowledging desolation and affliction demonstrates honest self-assessment. Reformed theology emphasizes that God's mercy is the only hope for the afflicted—human solutions fail, but divine grace suffices. This prayer models humble supplication from a position of weakness.

## Historical Context

---

David's life included extended periods of isolation, persecution, and hardship. These experiences produced prayers that sustained suffering saints throughout history. Honest lament before God characterizes biblical piety.

## Related Passages

---

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

---

1. How does acknowledging your 'desolation' before God open the way for His mercy?
2. When do you most need God to 'turn unto you' with focused attention?

## Interlinear Text

---

פְּנֵה	אֵלַי	וְסִינֵי	נִי	יְהוָה	יְהוָה
Turn	H413	thee unto me and have mercy	H3588	upon me for I am desolate	H3173
H6437		H2603			
וְעָנִי	אֶנִּי				
and afflicted	H589				
H6041					

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Psalms 86:16** (Grace): O turn unto me, and have mercy upon me; give thy strength unto thy servant, and save the son of thine handmaid.

**Micah 7:19** (Parallel theme): He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

**Psalms 143:4** (Parallel theme): Therefore is my spirit overwhelmed within me; my heart within me is desolate.

**Daniel 9:17** (Parallel theme): Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake.