

**Psalm 119: 169-176; “My Lips Shall Utter Praise”, A Sermon delivered at  
the Premier Estates Nursing Home by Pastor Paul Rendall  
on the afternoon of May 29<sup>th</sup> , 2016,**

You are called by God, if you know God, to glorify Him and to enjoy Him forever. How do you glorify God? We are told here, that we glorify Him by keeping His word. And how do we come to keep His word? We come to the place where we read the Bible. And then by exercising faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, by looking at the example of His life, and by looking at His love for us in His sufferings and death, the death of the cross, we begin to do what the Lord has commanded us to do in His word. We also pray, that His life would be found more and more in our life, to help us to do what God commands. So taking this concluding prayer of David, the psalmist, let us think about the things that he prayed, which are things that we should pray for as well. 1<sup>st</sup> of all – David prayed, and we also ought to pray, to be taught God's statutes. (verses 169-171) 2<sup>nd</sup> – David prayed, as we also ought to pray, that God would be with us as we go about to live out God's word. (Verses 172 - 174). And 3<sup>rd</sup> – David prayed, and we also ought to pray, that God would help us to stay upon the path of righteousness. (verses 175 and 176).

**First - David prayed, and we also ought to pray, to be taught God's statutes.**

David has a certain approach in prayer that he takes. He sees God as a great King. He sees Him as a holy and heavenly Monarch who holds all things and all power and authority in His hands. He says, “Let my cry come before You, O Lord...” And in verse 170 he says, “Let my supplication come before You...” The requests were two-fold. “Give me understanding”, and “Deliver me according to Your word”. This prayer for deliverance has reference to David's having been persecuted by King Saul, and by those loyal to Saul. Or, by Absalom his own son, and those loyal to him. It was no doubt one of those two situations that he was in the midst of here, when he penned these words. He needed wisdom and understanding from God as to how he ought to conduct himself under such circumstances. His life was in danger and he greatly needed God's help to him; help to soul and body. Yes, he was in danger, but let us realize that He also saw God as His all-powerful King and defender. I wonder if you see God in this holy and wonderful way? The reason that I ask this is because sometimes even a Christian may not believe that God can change the difficult situations that they are in; in relation to unbelieving wicked people who are oppressing their soul, and persecuting them unrighteously. And sometimes, because of the difficult or trying circumstances that you are in, you might think that God is not hearing; He is not listening, He is not answering, because you have been praying over and over.

At such times as that, you need to learn to pray in this way; “Give me understanding.” “Teach me your statutes.” Teach me how to think, what to think, and how to react. And especially; how can I glorify you, God, even when I am not yet delivered from the particular trial that I am passing through? And when you pray for deliverance from the trial that you would pray, “Deliver me according to Your Word.” Do you know, O believer that you cannot be delivered from any of your trials without the Lord's granting it to you? But O, dear believer, how gracious He is to all of His people who pray to Him. Psalm 34, verses 4-7 say – “I sought the Lord and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.” “They looked to Him and were radiant, and their faces were not ashamed.” “This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.” (Psalm 34: 4-7) The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, and delivers them.” David found this on many occasions of his life, both before and after he became king. It is trusting in the person and work of your Lord Jesus Christ, that is the basis of all of your answers to prayer. David often spoke of the Lord as the One who had delivered his soul from all distress.

Some of you may be weary and distressed in living your Christian life. There may be many reasons for this. You may be saying, "Why do I have these kind of trials with people around me? The answer from this text is apparent. It is so that God might teach you and give you understanding in your soul that there are things for you to learn about what it means to glorify Him, by having a right heart. He would teach you right thinking and right actions, which flow from your prayerfully meditating upon His word. They do not flow from brooding over your troubles and woes; and wondering why you cannot change them. God is the only one who can change both you and other people for the better. The way that He does this with His own, is to first to show them that the answers they are looking for only come from Him. They do not come from arguing with people around you. But always remember, that God can, and He will, give you wisdom if you will ask Him for it. Prayer is the place where God convinces you of how you need to think and what you need to change in your own life; if you need to change anything. And prayer is the best time, and the best place, for you to meditate upon what God has said in His word, so that He might show you how to bear up under all your soul's pain and anguish; and how by faith, you might come to know through His promises, how you can overcome your fears.

It is good for each one of us to stop and think, that although the Lord Jesus is much higher and much mightier than all the kings of the earth both past and present, He is much more easy to approach than the kings of the earth. If you believe in the Lord Jesus you are betrothed to a King. You are married to Christ the King in a spiritual sense. You are one spirit with Him. You are not an outer court worshiper if you have believed in Jesus Christ. You are an inner-court worshiper. You have been brought right into the throne room of God through the finished work of Jesus Christ. Why be sorrowful and sad over what people have done to you, when you have the King of Kings to converse with, to commune with, to take counsel with, and who you can bring to, all of your woes? Will you not come to Him in prayer and be refreshed? Will you not come to Him in prayer and ask Him to teach you? The Holy Spirit will Himself come to speak peace to your mind and heart when you come in the name of the Lord Jesus. He will come and speak to your soul through His mighty word. All of your soul's strength rests upon this. This is why Jesus died. This is why He suffered. This is why He shed His precious blood. It is so that your faith would not fail, but rather overcome. God must teach you this, dear Christian, very practically when you come into the situations of difficulty. But He is well able to do this.

**Now 2ndly - David prayed, as we also ought to pray, that God would be with us to help us as we go about to live out His word.** (Verses 172 -175)

"My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commands are righteousness." "Let Your hand become my help, for I have chosen Your precepts." "I long for Your salvation, O Lord, and Your law is my delight." "Let my soul live, and it shall praise You; and let your judgments help me." Let me ask you at this time if, as a believer, you are a person who speaks of God's word? What part of it do you speak of, to others? David thought that He would speak of the commandments of God's word; His moral precepts and His righteous laws. David knew that this really brings glory to God, to speak of things which God commands us to do. This is not only the 10 commandments, but all of the righteous moral principles which are found in the Bible. When you come to see that "all God's commands are not only right, but righteousness itself, and you deliberately choose to keep them, then you are making progress in your sanctification. It is something that you deliberately choose to do, it says in our text. "Let your hand become my help, for I have chosen Your precepts."

You see, David did not believe that he could keep God's righteous commandments by the power of his own observation and strength. God's hand had to be with him, to help him, in doing that. "Let your hand become my help." Each of us individually should pray fervently that this would become a reality in our life. God's hand is often spoken of in the Old Testament Scriptures as a symbol of Christ. Let me read to you Psalm 89, verses 13-16. "You have a mighty

arm; strong is Your hand, and high is your right hand.” “Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and truth go before Your face.” “Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound!” “They walk, O Lord in the light of Your countenance.” “In your name they rejoice all day long, and by Your righteousness they are exalted.” Now even though the Lord Jesus is not once named in these words, it is evident that He is the One being referred to as the Mighty Arm and the Strong Hand of our God. Do you know the joyful sound of the gospel of God’s righteousness being satisfied in Christ’s perfectly righteous life? Have you heard of His loving sacrificial death on the cross? If so, you will be able to walk the light of God’s countenance; and you will be given the ability, by His grace, to rejoice all day long. God’s law becomes your chief delight. You know that Christ is the righteousness of God, and by His righteousness you are exalted from your lowly position of a condemned sinner, unworthy of the least of God’s mercies, to a saint; one who has been justified and cleansed by the blood of Christ and given a righteous which is not your own making or doing to wear.

Let us understand that our Lord Jesus is the One who restores our souls when we are discouraged with our faulty obedience, or the oppositions of wicked men. It is God, through Christ, who causes His face to shine upon you. He has not only saved us from all of our sins, but He keeps on working in us to deliver us from the power and presence of sin in our hearts and lives. This ought to make you praise the Lord still more and more. “Oh sing to the Lord a new song!” “For He has done marvelous things; His right hand and His holy arm have gained for Him the victory.” “The Lord has made known His salvation; His righteousness He has revealed in the sight of the nations.” “He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.” This salvation is that which our great Savior has wrought for us. He has satisfied God’s justice, and He has reconciled us to His God and Father, and He Himself has become our peace. He has purchased with His blood, every blessing necessary to our salvation. God’s hand has become our help. His law has become our delight.

**3<sup>rd</sup> – David prayed, and we ought to pray, that God would keep us upon the path of righteousness.** (Verse 176)

“I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commandments.” Now this is not a statement that you would expect to hear from a man who had been a believer for a long time. It only goes to show that it is still possible, after we become a true Christian, to go astray like a lost sheep. When we know ourselves to be out of the path of righteousness, it is a good time to examine ourselves and to pray that the Lord would seek us; that He would bring us back to Himself, and to the good paths of His truth and righteousness. “He leads me on the path of righteousness for His own name’s sake,” it says in Psalm 23. It is encouraging to see here, the grace of Christ at work in David’s life. He knew that he had gone astray, but yet he did not forget God’s commandments. Why was this? It was because of God’s faithfulness; His supplying to David the needed grace to remember, and to repent, and to turn back from his folly and his sins. This is, thankfully, what God does with each and every one of His dear people. Let me read to you a few words from Luke Chapter 15. “Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Jesus.” “And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, ‘This Man receives sinners and eats with them.’” “So He spoke this parable to them, saying: ‘What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he find it?’” “And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders rejoicing.” “And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’” “I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.”

This may indeed be speaking about the repentance which leads to life. But you and I need to understand that repentance is an everyday exercise with a believer. If we will regularly examine our hearts, we should be able to see that we need grace every day to repent. We will need grace to sorrow and mourn over the many sins of our hearts; the many sins of our lips, and sometimes even our actions. But we will come to understand that as we confess our sins and repent of them by forsaking them, that He is even now looking down upon us with great rejoicing. May each of us have this kind of real dealings with our God over the issues of our heart, so that we might be filled with joy and gladness in our walk with Christ. Let us pray also, that we will be rendering to Him a sincere obedience to His word in the days to come.