

In the Shadow of Your Wings

Psalm 17

A Petition For Protection

Introduction

Four major cords that hold a society together:

- ✓ its *health*;
- ✓ its *economy*;
- ✓ its *security*;
- ✓ its *unity*.

John 18:36

“How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.” Psalm 36:7

In times of distress, a child of God turns immediately to God in prayer armed with:

- ✓ Sincerity (v1);
- ✓ Transparency (v2);
- ✓ Purity (v3);
- ✓ Sufficiency (vv4-5);
- ✓ Dependency (vv6-7);
- ✓ Security (vv8-10);
- ✓ Vulnerability (vv11-12);
- ✓ Supremacy (vv13-14);
- ✓ Clemency (v15)

SINCERITY (v1)

The heart of a child of God cries out to his heavenly Father who *hears, sees, and knows*.

“for the ear tests words as the palate tastes food.” Job 34:3

People who have the least righteous cause, devoid of truth, have the loudest voices.

David’s heart cries out 3x out of concern to be heard above the din of unrighteous clamor.

Matthew 12:18-19

2 Timothy 2:24-25

A single righteous heart cry carries further to heaven than the thundering voices of unrighteous thousands.

“He who planted the ear, does he not hear? He who formed the eye, does he not see?” Psalm 94:9

Heart cries go *up* reaching the ear of God. Unrighteous shouts go *out* and fall to the ground.

Shouts issue from angry hearts; cries from broken ones.

"Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." John 18:37

"There is more fear that we will not hear the Lord than that the Lord will not hear us." Spurgeon

"free from deceit!"

God requires sincerity of heart when we approach God in prayer.

TRANSPARENCY (v2)

The child of God cries out for justice with an open heart.

Emboldened by his *sincere* prayer, the earnest petitioner invites God's investigation of him (cp Ps. 139:23).

With nothing to hide he welcomes examination openly before the world.

Let your eyes behold the right!

The Christian does not expect, nor want, favoritism. He or she wants equal justice under God's law.

PURITY (v3)

The child of God stands before Him in prayer with a clear conscience.

Proverbs 17:3

Zechariah 13:9

"Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God." 1 John 3:21

I have purposed that my mouth will not transgress.

SUFFICIENCY (vv4-5)

The child of God prays with confidence knowing that it is the grace of God and the sufficiency of His Word that keeps him from sinning.

It is only because we yield to the leading of the Spirit and follow the ways of His Word that we have been kept from similar acts of sin.

DEPENDENCY (vv6-7)

The child of God relies entirely on the love of God when trouble strikes, and he cries out for it.

He sees an opportunity for the spectacle of God's love to put on display against the evil backdrop of falsehood, violence, and injustice.

SECURITY (vv8-10)

The child of God knows where his protection comes from – *Almighty God* – and he turns to Him in prayer
my deadly enemies who surround me.

David likens himself to a besieged city

Now is the time to exercise great self-restraint: Proverbs 25:28

Now is the time to check your heart for anger: Proverbs 16:32

They close their hearts to pity; with their mouths they speak arrogantly. v10

“And because lawlessness will be increased, the love of many will grow cold.” Matthew 24:12

Ezekiel 16:49

A person who adores himself has little room left in his heart to adore God or submit to Him.

VULNERABILITY (vv11-12)

The child of God understands that as a witness for Jesus Christ, he is vulnerable to attack.

they set their eyes to cast us to the ground.

He is like a lion eager to tear, as a young lion lurking in ambush.

The bloodlust of our Adversary against the righteous is insatiable and unceasing.

Proverbs 27:20

SUPREMACY (vv13-14)

The child of God flees immediately to the one Supreme Being who has the wisdom and power to deliver.

CLEMENCY (v15)

Clemency is tender mercy received and forgiveness granted.

It extends grace to those who deserve punishment, but pardons them instead.

“when I awake”

David is referring to the resurrection.

The child of God is confident that Jesus, the One who sought us and bought us, will complete His work in us when He brings us home to glory.

Beholding his “face.” That will be everything. Transformation complete. Communion in perfection.