

Back in 1964 there was a song that was written by Bob Gaudio, who was the man who wrote many of the hit songs for the Four Seasons that appeared on the B side of the song “Rag Doll.” It never did much until 1967 when it was recorded by an English band known as the Tremeloes. The name of the song was “Silence is Golden.” The point of the song is that even at times when you see that someone does something hurtful to someone you care about, sometimes the best thing to do is to say nothing. Keep your mouth shut and just watch. There are times when “Silence is Golden.”

But there are other times when silence is not golden, especially when it comes to our relationship with God. There is no question as we go through the Bible that problems and pressures are important to our development. Troubles and trials may actually draw us closer to the Lord. One of the ways we draw closer to the Lord is through prayer. However, if there is a long lapse of time between our prayers and God’s answer, we can begin to wonder whether or not God is still with us or we may begin to think He has turned against us. In these moments, the silence of God is certainly not golden to us.

If you can relate to this, you can relate to what David was experiencing as he wrote **Psalm 28**. David was God’s anointed servant (**28:8**); he was Israel’s king. He found himself surrounded by all kinds of trouble. It is clear when he wrote this psalm that it had been a long time since he had heard from God. His troubles were not going away and it had been a long while since God had answered his prayers. The lesson to see here is this:

DAVID PRAYS AND ASKS GOD TO ANSWER HIS PRAYER OF PRESERVING AND PROTECTING HIM AND THOSE WHO ARE FAITHFUL , AND ALSO ANSWER HIS PRAYER OF DESTROYING THOSE EVIL .

David wanted God to move. He wanted God to act and respond. He was surrounded by enemies who were verbally attacking him and influencing others. There was nothing David could do in and of himself. His only recourse was to cry out to God and seek His help. That is precisely what David does here and that is what we need to do when we find ourselves surrounded by those who are destructively evil. What David wanted was for God to be silent no longer.

Now the psalm breaks down nicely under three main topics:

TOPIC #1 – The prayers of David. 28:1-5

Now in **verse 1**, David identified God as being his “rock.” God was the strong, stable, immutable God. He was the solid One in whom he could trust. There is something stable, powerful, permanent about a rock. John Phillips tells the story of an open-air preacher in Ireland who was preaching at the time of the “Shamrock races.” A heckler in the crowd yelled, “Hey preacher, what do you know of the shamrock?” The minister said, “Well, sir, I only know of one rock and that is Jesus Christ. He is the solid rock and all other rock is sham rock.” David’s rock was God.

In **verses 1-5** there are a series of three prayer requests that David makes to the Lord:

Prayer Request #1 - David prays that God will answer his prayers. **28:1-2**

When a biblical writer speaks in terms of God being deaf to one's prayers or of God hearing one's prayers, he is not attacking the omnipresence or omniscience of God, which demands that God sees all and knows all. **The biblical writer is requesting that God answer the prayer.** In other words, not hearing is to be equated with not answering. God always hears everything but He does not always immediately answer every prayer.

Now the silence of God causes additional anguish for the hurting and struggling believer because there is always the possibility that God has stopped answering one's prayer requests. When it comes to moving God through prayer, there is a possibility that God is not pleased with a believer and has abandoned answering the prayers of that believer. David certainly knows of this doctrine and that is why he prays this prayer and asks God to listen to his prayers and answer it. **David's passion was to have God answer prayer. This is a great passion we need.**

Now at the end of **verse 1**, David offers an interesting reason why he wants God to answer his prayers—he did not want to “become like those who go down to the pit.” Going down to the pit is a synonym for going to the grave (Ps. 30:3; 88:3-4). David does not want to go to the grave in the same state that almost everyone else goes to the grave—which is in a state of no faith, no hope, no trust, and no confidence in God.

Prayer Request #2 - David prays that God will not do to him what He will do to the wicked.
28:3

David believed that the key to not becoming like the wicked was God's sovereign work in a life. Now people who are wicked and who work perverse iniquity and are evil are heading to serious judgment of God. Charles Haddon Spurgeon said make no mistake about it, the wicked will eventually be dragged off to hell like logs drawn to a fire.

David did not want to be bound in the same bundle they were bound in which he would experience the wrath of God. So in this text, he specifically asks God to not let him be dragged away with those who have hypocritical hearts. David sensed the potential to do perverse things was very real and he asks God not to let him do it. This is a key to spiritual victory.

Now the key thing to see here is that David saw himself as one that God could legitimately drag off in the same bundle. He saw himself as one who was not exempt from wicked sin. But his appeal is that God will be merciful to him. This request hints that the psalmist believed he did deserve the same fate as those who live lives of iniquity.

Let's face it; we are all sinners. God has a court case against every one of us. Our hearts are all deceitful and there is a desperate wickedness which lies in every heart. David is a sinner and as a sinner he is asking God to be merciful to him and not drag him off like He will do with the wicked.

Notice that the wicked speaks “peace” with their neighbors. They never challenge, never confront or never say God is the only true God. The wicked person is a peace promoter. All religions are good and peaceful and all neighbors are good and peaceful, too.

One commentator says this kind of wicked person promotes a counterfeit friendship which is worse than hatred and is no better than a lie. David stood up for God and defended God, those wicked didn't.

Prayer Request #3 - David prays that God will repay those who are evil. **28:4-5**

Here is where some people struggle with this psalm. Some don't believe David has a right to pray this kind of prayer. The prayer may be classified as an “according to” kind of prayer. Those “according to” phrases request “exact retribution.”

Make no mistake about this; it is the nature of God to punish sin specifically and precisely as the sinner has committed it. It is not God's nature to overlook or forego sin and it is not God's nature to tolerate sin. It is His nature to pay back the sinner in precise accordance with his or her sinful violations. The concept of redemption demands the concept of condemnation.

There are three ways David asks God to pay back those who are evil:

(Way #1) - David asks that God will pay back those evil according to their work. **28:4a**

Do not overlook the fact that the noun “work” is singular, not plural. The idea here is that David is asking God to take the whole evil work system into consideration and pay them back. Evil people believe they can rely upon their own work. However, the entire bent of those evil is an evil work that is against the will of God, the Word of God and the grace of God.

(Way #2) - David asks that God will pay back those evil according to their practices. **28:4b**

Carefully notice that the practices of those evil are evil. The word “practices” comes from a Hebrew root word that refers to treacherous, faithless and arrogant works (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 494).

David is asking God to analyze every arrogant, treacherous and faithless thing they have done and pay them back. Records are kept in the eternal vault of God on every individual concerning every evil act.

(Way #3) - David asks that God will pay back those evil according to their deeds. **28:4c**

David is requesting that God examine all the specific work produced by evil hands and render a payment.

Now carefully notice **verse 5** because it gives the reason why David wants God to judge at this level; because evil people will not ever honor God in anything. In other words, those who are evil are people who will not acknowledge God or His Word and they will not honor God at all. They are not interested in the truth of God and they are not interested in the true will of God. So David's motive for this prayer was more than getting even with those who had wronged him; it was that these people were so evil they did not regard God.

John Calvin said David is not so much pleading his own cause as he is the cause of God. God had done an amazing work in the life of David. God made him king, so those who refused to acknowledge that were evil and were not evil against David but against God, and eventually those who are evil against God will be torn down.

TOPIC #2 – The praise of David. **28:6-7**

At this point, the tone of the psalm changes from petition to jubilation. Spurgeon used to say those who pray well will eventually praise well. There are three reasons David praises God:

Reason #1 - David praised God because God heard David's prayer. **28:6**

One writer said how do we really know our prayer has been heard? We pray with urgency and then we get up from our knees and nothing changes. The sun rises and the rain falls. The meals are still cooked on the stove. The dog still barks and the birds still sing in the trees. The children still argue. So how do we know how did David know? The answer is we have God's Word on it. Matthew 6:6 says when we pray in secret our Father hears and will reward.

Reason #2 - David praised God because God protected David. **28:7a**

David had seen God give him strength and protection many times.

Reason #3 - David praised God because his heart trusted God for help and God helped. **28:7b**

As a result of this, David's heart exulted God; he sang songs for God and thanked God. When God answers prayer these are good things for us to remember to do. Thank God, exalt God, sing praises to God.

Our faith is strengthened when we pray in the midst of trouble and see God answer the prayers. That is why it is so necessary for God to answer our prayers. This is why it is so important that we remain faithful to God so He can answer our prayers.

TOPIC #3 – The pastoral prayer of David. **28:8-9**

David not only thought about himself individually, but he also thought about himself nationally. He realized that God was not just his strength, but He was also Israel's strength.

God's deliverance of him was a major deliverance for all of Israel. Israel was God's nation. Israel is God's inheritance. Israel is God's people.

David knew that God was not only protecting him, but the entire nation.

There are three practical lessons to see:

1. No matter how gloomy or dark things appear to be, wise is the one who realizes God is his rock and cries out to God.
2. The prayer concerning the wicked and the righteous are different prayers with different outcomes.
 - A) For the wicked, the outcome is punishment **(28:4)**;
 - B) For the righteous, the outcome is deliverance **(28:9)**.
3. There is nothing wrong in realizing that the Lord does see a difference between you and those who have done or said evil against you.