

David's Prayer
Psalm 86.1-7

INTRO:

When we begin reading the Psalms, it seems as if we are eavesdropping on someone's prayer closet. In the Psalms we read about the Psalmist's innermost feelings, and hear him pleading with God to be heard. We catch a glimpse of the intimacy the Psalmist and the Lord of glory share.

I really get a sense of eavesdropping on David's prayer closet when we begin to read, David's prayer song in **Psalm 86**. This is a Psalm in which David pleads with God.

I. David's Pleading with God (v. 1-7)

II. Lessons from David's Pleading

I. David's Pleading with God (v. 1-7)

A. David is called in the Bible a man after God's own heart. Therefore we have much to learn from David about our own relationship with the living God. Perhaps, the first thing we could learn is how to plead with God for the answers to our prayers.

1. David wrote eloquently about God's promises to answer prayer in places such as

Psalm 34:17 *"The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles."*

Yet, this same David pleaded passionately that God would hear and answer his prayers.

2. In fact, the first seven verses of this **Psalm** are a series of reasons why God should hear and answer David's prayers.

B. In **verse 1** David cried out to God and asked Him to hear because He is poor and needy.

"Bow down Your ear, O LORD, hear me; for I am poor and needy."

The first reason God should answer David's prayer is because David is a needy person. David recognized that he could not make it on his own. He needed God. God is a God of compassion. He loves His children and will meet them in their need. Do we recognize we are a needy people? Our besetting sin is that we tend to be self-sufficient. We pride ourselves on needing no one and nothing. However, the fact is we need everything. God has to provide everything for us. Do we see Him as the source of supply for all our needs?

C. The second reason why God should hear him was because of the relationship he and the LORD share. In **verse 2** he wrote:

“Preserve my life, for I am holy; You are my God; save Your servant who trusts in You!”

1. What did David mean when he said ***“for I am holy?”*** The Hebrew word here is related to the word which means God’s steadfast and unfailing love. The word David used describes one who receives and responds to God’s unfailing love.

2. Therefore, we can translate this in a variety of ways. We can translate this as our translation does, ***“for I am holy.”*** Or it could be translated, for ***“I am loyal (to you, Lord).”*** A third way to translate it is as the NASB does, ***“for I am godly.”*** The point is that David pleaded his own relationship with God as a reason that God should hear him.

3. This certainly poses a challenge to us. Is our relationship with God so close we can cry out to the Lord, because I am walking in fellowship with You, please hear my prayer?

D. The third reason David cited as why God should hear him was that God was his God and he, David, was God’s servant.

v.2 *“You are my God; save Your servant who trusts in You!”*

David never got this order confused. The fact is, we in the church today get this all turned around. We think that God is the servant and we are the master. We forget that important glimpse into the throne room of God that we are given in **Revelation 4:10-11**.

“The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

We exist to serve and please the Lord and not the other way around.

E. The fourth reason God should answer David’s prayer is because David is continually praying to Him.

v.3 *“Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I cry to You all day long.”*

David never stopped seeking the LORD’s face and praying to Him. What is our prayer life like? Do we pray regularly? Do we pray consistently? Perhaps if we felt our neediness more, we would be found more often before the throne of Grace.

F. Answer my prayer also, LORD, because I lift my soul to You.

v.4 *“Rejoice the soul of Your servant, for to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.”*

What did David mean that he lifted up his soul? We find this phrase twice more in the Psalms.

Psalm 24:3-4 *“Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who has not lifted up his soul to an idol, nor sworn deceitfully.”*

Again we read in

Psalm 25:1-2 *“To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in You.”*

The soul is the life. David here lifted up his very life in worship to God.

G. Finally, his plea to God is based upon the very character of the One with whom he pleads.

v.5 *“For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You”*

David pleaded based upon the fact that God is good, ready to forgive, and He is abundant in His steadfast love, kindness, and mercy toward us.

H. Finally, David pleaded God would hear his prayer.

vs.6-7 *“Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications. In the day of my trouble I will call upon You, for You will answer me.”*

II. Lessons from David’s Pleading

A. First, in this Psalm we learn the importance of pleading with God when we pray.

We do not plead with God with the idea that somehow we can talk God into listening to us. It is more that we plead with God recognizing that He is God and we cannot demand anything from Him. In **Romans 11:33-35** the Apostle Paul wrote,

“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?”

We plead with God to hear our prayers because He is God and He does not owe us anything, but we owe Him everything.

B. The second lesson we draw from David’s pleading with God is how we must constantly recognize who God is from His names. He calls upon **Yahweh**, the always faithful, covenant making and covenant keeping God to hear his prayer. God is his **Elohim**, his all-powerful one. Finally, he acknowledges that God is his **Adonai**, his Lord and Master. Do we acknowledge all these things about our God when we pray to Him?

Hymn #428 *I Need Thee Every Hour*