

Psalm 28

“A Psalm of David”

“A prayer for help, and praise for it’s answer”

Theme: Prayer when surrounded by trouble or wickedness. God is our only real source of safety. Prayer is our best help when trials come our way because it keeps us in communion with God.

David speaks as an individual threatened by the wicked and by the evil doers (vv1-7). But he concludes with prayer for the nations (vv8-9). Which suggests that he is conscious of his role as **“representative”** of the nation.

The first part of this psalm is the prayer of a militia saint, now in distress (vv 1-3), to which is added the doom of God’s relentless enemies, (vv 4-5).

The last part of this Psalm is the thanksgiving of saint “triumphant”, delivered out of his distress (vv6-8), then is added a prophetic prayer for all God’s faithful loyal subjects, (v 9).

So that it is hard to say which of these two conditions David was in when he penned it. Some think that he was in trouble seeking God, at the same time preparing to praise Him for his deliverance, and by faith giving Him thanks for it, before it came to pass. Others think he was now in “triumph”, remembering, and recording for others benefit, teaching us to pray in affliction for mercy, also, pray a prayer of thanksgiving after the answer comes.

David’s confidence in the Lord in Psalm 28, mirrors the confidence he expressed in Psalm 27. Verse 1 begins this mirror by connecting to (27:7), the rock as David’s place of security (v1- 27:5). David’s plea that God not turn a deaf ear (v1) or hide his face (27:9), David’s cry for mercy (v 2,6; 27:7), God’s house as the place that David wants to be (v 2; 27:4-6, the Lord as Davids helper (7; 27:9) and strong fortress (v7-8; 27:1), and David’s joy and songs of praise (v7; 27:6). Yet unlike 27, this psalm include imprecations against David’s enemies (v4-5).

[Verse 1 NLT] “I pray to you, O LORD, my rock. Do not turn a deaf ear to me. For if you are silent, I might as well give up and die.

(KJV) “Unto thee will I cry, O LORD my rock; be not silent to me: lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit.

“Pit” A metaphor for death, usually also denoting God’s judgement and punishment. Sometime “pit” is an alternative name for the realm of the dead.

[v. 2 NIV] Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, as **“I lift up my hands”** toward your **“most holy place”**.

I lift up my hands: An easy recognizable act of worship.

Sometimes as here, it represents petition (Lam.2:19; 141:2); other times it represents praise (63:4; Neh. 8:6).

Most holy place: This continues the emphasis on “God’s house” (23:6; 24:3; 26:8), and the inner sanctuary of the tabernacle and later the temple which housed the ark of the covenant.

(vvs.3-5 NIV) “Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who do evil, who speak cordially with their neighbors but harbor malice in their hearts. 4.) Repay them for their deeds and for their evil work; repay them for what their hands have done and bring back on them what they deserve. 5.) Because they have no regard for the deeds of the LORD and what his hands have done, he will tear them down and never build them up again.

[v.3] It’s easy to pretend friendship.

Wicked people often put on a show of kindness or friendship in order to gain their own ends. David, in his royal position, may have met many who pretended friendship, only to meet their own needs.

David knew that God would punish these people eventually, but he prayed that their punishment would come swiftly. True believers should be straight forward and sincere in their relationships.

Old School labels: “back stabbers, two faced, loose lips sink ships (Prov. 12:22, lying lips).

[v.4] Repay them!

King David utters harsh imprecations (curses) against those who have done evil and opposed the LORD.

Though harsh, these words simply echo what God had promised to do, as far back as Abraham's day, to those who oppose him and his people (Gen 12:3).

[v.5 MSG] Because they have no idea how God works or what he is up to, God will smash them to smithereens and then walk away from their ruin. {Daffy Duck, saying}.

[v. 6] Praise be to the LORD, for he has heard my cry for mercy.

At times even a faithful believer may at times feel that God is not listening to their prayers (v.2).

However, this experience will not be the norm as long as we continue to draw near to him through Christ.

Hebrew 4:16 Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Because Christ sympathizes with our weaknesses, we can confidently approach the heavenly throne, knowing that our prayers and petitions are welcomed and desired by our heavenly Father (Heb. 10:19-20).

It is called the "throne of grace" because from it flow God's love, help, mercy, forgiveness, spiritual power, the out pouring of the Holy Spirit, His spiritual gifts, the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and all that we need under any circumstances.

One of our greatest blessings of salvation is that Christ is our high priest, opening a way to his personal presence whereby we can seek the help we need.

{The Full Life Study Bible, notes}

[v.7] The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trust in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

After a period of trial, the Lord will respond and help us as a shepherd cares for his sheep. {Isaiah 40:11} Describes God as one who picks up an individual lamb in order to protect it and carry it close to His heart.

He still cares for His own in a personal way. Although God is all powerful, we must never think that God is so majestic that He ignores the needs and problems of the individual believer.

[v. 8] The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed one.

David respected the office of God's anointed king, having refused to kill Saul, whom God had anointed king (1 Sam. 24:6).

In David's psalms, he almost always writes with the consciousness that he is now the anointed king, and he is grateful for the Lord's protection and guidance.

Because we are his anointed believers, perhaps we should feel like David, that we also are grateful for the Lord's protection and guidance.

[v. 9] Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever.

Psalms 23:1-4,6 NIV

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

He leads me beside the quiet waters,

He refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,

For you are with me;

Your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me,

All the days of my life,

And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

“Love” Is an unfailing covenant term rooted in God's very nature!

1 John 4:16 “God is love, and all who live in love live in God, and God lives in them. God is love, and he who abides in love, abides in God, and God in him.

Resources:

Full Life Study Bible

Student Application Study Bible

NIV Zondervan study bible

