

Psalm 86

- A prayer of David mixed in between the various Psalms of and to the sons of Korah. An opportunity to hear the prayer of a man after God's own heart.
 - Men's prayer!
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V: 1 *“Bow down your ear...”* That is exactly what God does when He's hearing our prayers because He is high and lifted up, and we are low, so he “condescends” to hear us.

Isaiah 6:1 *“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up...”*

- He is *“El-elyon”*- The LORD Most High.

Psalm 47:2 *“For the LORD Most High is awesome; He is a great King over all the earth.”*

- Throughout this Psalm David rotates between Yahweh / Jehovah, Adonai, and Elohim.
- This is basically a plea for God to listen, to hear him.

“For I am poor and needy:”

- Poor in Spirit, and needy of the Lord's work & presence in his life.

Matthew 5:3 *“Blessed are the poor in Spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

V: 2 *Preserve my life, my soul, keep me! Watch over me! Guard over me.*

- Because I'm holy - like the song we sing: Holiness is Christ in me.
- David says I am holy - and we can almost add a word “because” You are my God.
- David was aware of his own shortcomings and weakness practically, but he was also confident of his standing with God positionally.

[Ahijah in rebuking Jeroboam: you haven't been like my servant David](#)

1 Kings 14:8b *“... who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart, to do only what was right in My eyes.”*

- That is how God viewed David.
- It is assumed that this is a Psalm that was written earlier in David's life. It's not un-common in his earlier Psalms for David to declare his own righteousness, or his holiness before God but as he got older he was much less prone to doing so. In fact he more often declared his unworthiness, and his need for God's forgiveness.

Psalm 25:7 "Remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; according to Your mercy remember me, for Your goodness' sake, O Lord."

- Not for my goodness' sake!

V: 3 Be merciful to me, don't give me what I deserve.

Psalm 103:10 "He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities."

V: 4 Rejoice, make glad the heart of your servant: because I lift up my soul to you.

- Even though David gives a reason why, because he lifts up his soul to God - the reason is un-necessary, God blesses us just because He's gracious - not because we deserve it.

Psalm 3:3 "But You, O Lord, are a shield for me, my glory and the One who lifts up my head."

- Lord, rejoice my soul just because I'm yours.

V: 5 David makes his appeal based again on the character of God, not upon his own worthiness.

- In the process David is declaring that God is good, that He's ready to forgive, and that He is abundant in mercy.
- David is right, God is abundantly abundant in mercy, grace, and truth!

Romans 5:20 "... But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more."

- These are viewed by some as NT traits of God - but here we are in the OT. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever - His character doesn't change from one testament to the other or in between.

V: 6-7 "Hear my prayer Lord" - because when I'm in trouble you're the One I'm going to call!

- We call on God, not Ghost Busters, not your mama, none of the false gods of this world.

Psalm 46:1 “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

V: 8 Among the “gods” (little “g”) There are many false gods in this world, none of which can help anyone.

- Pagan Gods
 - ❖ Molech = god of pleasure. god of jet skis, big trucks, giant screen TV’s.
 - ❖ Witchcraft, pharmachia: drugs.
 - ❖ Baal = god of intellectual prowess “philo – sophia” , the love of knowledge.
 - ❖ Astureth = god of fertility / sexuality people magazine, Hollywood,
 - ❖ Mammon = god of power / possessions / wealth
 - ❖ Bachus = alcohol, party & revelry.
 - ❖ Pan = god of fields, forests, wild animals.
 - ❖ Humanism = worship ourselves.

Isaiah 48:5 “Even from the beginning I have declared it to you; before it came to pass I proclaimed it to you, lest you should say, “My idol has done them, and my carved image and my molded image have commanded them.”

- The Psalmist describes the false gods of this world - and that they are powerless!

Psalm 115:3-8 “³But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases. ⁴Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. ⁵They have mouths, but they do not speak; eyes they have, but they do not see; ⁶They have ears, but they do not hear; noses they have, but they do not smell; ⁷They have hands, but they do not handle; feet they have, but they do not walk; nor do they mutter though their throat. ⁸Those who make them are like them so is everyone who trusts in them.”

V: 9 This is speaking of that time when all nations, not just Israel - shall come and worship the True and the Living God.

Paul refers to this time as well:

Philippians 2:9-11 “⁹Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Isaiah 45:23 “I have sworn by Myself; the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath.”

V: 10 He alone is God, there is none else. He is incomparable.

Isaiah 46:5 “To whom will you liken Me, and make Me equal and compare Me, that we should be alike?”

Isaiah 44:6 “Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, and His Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God.”

Isaiah 46:9 “Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me.”

V: 11 Teach me your way, O Lord; I will walk in your truth,” your ways.

- David is demonstrating an attitude of both submission and commitment. So often our actions say show me your ways and I'll consider it, speak to me, and I'll think about it.
- It just doesn't work that way. Like David we have to purpose in our hearts - “Lord teach me your way - and I will walk in your way. What you say, I will do - that's the attitude we're to have.

Psalms 25:4-5 “⁴Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. ⁵Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day.”

- I'm reminded of the two disciples on their way to Emmaus after Jesus' crucifixion. After His resurrection He joined them on the road.

Luke 24:27, 32 “²⁷And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” - “³²And they said to one another, “did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us.””

Not long after that the Lord met the disciples in an upper room for the second time:

Luke 24:44-45 “⁴⁴Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” ⁴⁵And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the scriptures.”

V: 11b Unite my heart, help me to not have a divided heart:

James 1:8 “A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

V: 12 Praising God with an un-divided heart, a whole heart.

Psalm 119:2 “Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart!”

- That is one of the biggest challenges of our time, worshipping God with a whole heart; there are so many distractions and things competing for our attention, we really have to purpose to worship God in Spirit and in truth, with our whole heart.

Remember what Jesus taught us:

Matthew 22:37 “... You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.”

- We're called to a radical, all or nothing, completely sold out life that would be lived for Him.

V: 13 His mercy is great; those that believe in Him have been saved from hell!

Luke 16:19-31 Lazarus and the rich man: The rich man was clothed in purple and fine linen, he fared sumptuously every day.

- But Lazarus was a poor beggar, full of sores, who was laid at the rich man's gate, hoping to be fed from the crumbs that fell from the rich man's table.
- The dogs came and licked the rich man's sores.
- So it was that Lazarus died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. A place of comfort and rest, awaiting Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.
- The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torment in Hades, Hell, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom and he cried out to Abraham.
- He asked that Lazarus might be sent to dip his finger in water and cool his tongue. Abraham said that it was impossible for him to do so...
- The point is that the rich man's soul, his consciousness was in torment in hell while his body was beginning to decompose in a nice tomb somewhere else.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 “Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.”

- Being made in the image of God we are an inferior trinity: Body, soul, and Spirit.
- ❖ **Body:** - either male or female, God determines that at conception - with our body we move and express ourselves.
- ❖ **Soul:** that is our consciousness, our ability to think, and to reason, and to learn.
- ❖ **Spirit:** the breath of God in our lives, the Holy Spirit of God who comes to live in us if we are born again of the Spirit.
- It is in the area of the Spirit where we connect with God.
- We're born into this world with a body and soul - but dead in the Spirit.
- When we repent of our sins and receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to live in us - that is what being born again is, born of the Spirit.

Jesus said:

John 3:3 “... Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Paul later described:

1 Corinthians 3:16 “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

- When we are “born again” - the Spirit of God comes into us and is joined with our consciousness, with our soul.
- Later when we die physically our soul which is joined to the Spirit, returns to God who gave it. Our soul ends up in heaven with God.
- The non-believer, those who are not born again there is no Spirit to return to God. Upon their death, their body and soul are separated. The body turns back to dust returning once again to the earth. Their soul is not left to wander, but like the rich man is transported to hell to await that final judgment at the Great White Throne of God.
- David is so grateful for God's mercy and for having delivered his soul from the depths of Sheol.
- No matter what we're dealing with in life, or the difficulties we're having, we can rejoice that we're no longer going to hell!

V: 14 This may be a reference to Saul and men like Doeg, violent wicked men who have sought David's life.

- Men who have not set the Lord before them, not yielded to His authority.

V: 15 “*But*” contrast - you oh Lord are different than them.

- You are full of compassion, grace, and patient. You're abundant, overflowing in mercy and truth!

David has adopted God's description of Himself:

Exodus 34:6-7 “⁶The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, and transgression, and sin...”

- Paul tells us that it's these very attributes of God that should draw us to repentance.

Romans 2:4 “Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?”

V: 16 Turn your attention to me, be merciful to me Lord! Save me Lord!

V: 17 Lord, show me a sign - something that will once again demonstrate your favor both for me and so that my enemies will know.

- When Jesus' critics demanded a sign of Him, He pointed them to the prophet Jonah.

Matthew 12:40 “For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.”

- He was basically pointing to the cross - His ultimate expression of good, of love, of mercy, grace - and how we've made peace with God.

John 13:15 “Greater love has no man than this than to lay down one's life for His friends.”

- And that is exactly what Jesus has done for us, He's given us a sign, He's demonstrated His love!