

## A Prayer of Faith

Psalm 4: 1-8

It is impossible to overemphasize the importance of prayer. It is without a doubt the greatest tool available to us. Prayer is the source of our power; it is the means of our praise, and the avenue of our spiritual prosperity. David was certainly a man of prayer. He was the king of Israel, and yet he knew on whom he had to depend. There can be little doubt that David made prayer a priority in his life.

I firmly believe if there is one area in which the church is weak, it is in our ability and desire to pray. We all know that we ought to pray. I'm sure that we attempt to pray on a regular basis, but are we the people of prayer we ought to be? Are we familiar enough with prayer to really get a hold of God when we pray? We need to learn to pray and develop a commitment and hunger for that time of communion with the Lord. If there has ever been a need for God's children to pray, it is now! [1 Tim.2:1 – I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;](#) [1 Thes.5:17 – Pray without ceasing.](#) [Jer.29:13 – And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.](#) [1 Chron.16:11 – Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his face continually.](#) God gives a clear command in His Word that we are to pray.

I want to look at the various [aspects](#) of this beautiful prayer of David as we consider: [A Prayer of Faith.](#)

**I. The Perception of Prayer** (1, 3) – If we are to be effective when we pray, we must first realize to whom we are praying. The very nature of prayer leads us to consider the Almighty God whom we seek. What should we perceive as we pray?

**A. The Righteousness of God** (1a) – [Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness.](#) David is reflecting on the holy and righteous nature of the Lord. He realizes that God alone is the source of righteousness, even his righteousness. Were it not for the mercies of the Lord pardoning our sin through the blood of Jesus, we would still be viewed as sinful and condemned. There is no righteousness within man, nothing we can boast of in ourselves. All that we are we owe to the Lord and His righteousness.

- Our relationship with God through the Son affords us the privilege of prayer. Without Him we are nothing; with Him we are just sinners saved by grace. We cannot pray unless we see God as holy! Prayer is an act of worship. Who is worthy of worship except the Lord? I stand amazed that God would love me enough to provide for my salvation and count me as worthy is His eyes.

**B. The Faithfulness of God** (1b, 3) – *Thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress.* <sup>[3]</sup> *But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him.* David pondered the difficult times in life. He considered those times when he faced defeat and even death. In those times of hardship and pain, God had been faithful. He had not just kept David by seeing him through the trials, but God had richly blessed him in those trying times. There had never been a time that David could remember where God forsook him.

- Who among us could say that God has not been faithful? We likely didn't understand or appreciate all we endured, but God remained faithful. Even in trials, He met our needs and we came through stronger. God has enlarged us! The saved are not left alone or abandoned. We have been separated unto the Lord and He hears us when we pray, [V.3](#). Isn't that amazing? God has chosen us and set us aside as His people. We belong to Him. There is nothing that can separate us from the love and provision of the Lord. [Rom.8:35-39](#).

**C. The Graciousness of God** (1c) – *Have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer.* Keep in mind to whom David is praying. He is praying to the Almighty God, the holy and righteous One, and yet he has no hesitation in seeking the mercy and attention of the Lord. It simply amazes me that God would even consider sinful men. What could we possibly do to earn or deserve the divine favor of the Lord? I know that we are generally good people, but deep down we are sinful.

- It is not within our nature to seek the ways of God. There isn't a one of us who desired to serve the Lord within ourselves. We were dependent upon God's mercy and His grace. We were all deserving of hell, but grace and mercy stepped in where justice was deserved!

- When we pray we ought to be reminded of the graciousness of God. We can pray with full assurance that God will hear our prayers and meet our needs. [Heb.4:16](#) – *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.* I don't have to fear asking my Father anything. I can go to Him with each and every need at any time!

**II. The Particulars of Prayer** (2, 4-6) – David clearly knew to whom he prayed. He enjoyed a proper perception of the holiness and majesty of the Lord. These verses also reveal to us what David prayed for in particular.

**A. Prayer for Conviction** (2) – *O ye sons of men, how long will ye turn my glory into shame? how long will ye love vanity, and seek after leasing? Selah.* It is believed that David prayed concerning those who conspired against him with Absalom his son. He brought his grief and concern before the Lord. David prayed that God would bring conviction and deal with those who sought his defeat.

- I'm sure we have all dealt with a similar situation. It likely wasn't as drastic or severe as David's, but we've all experienced an attack from those who sought to undermine our testimony or influence. Often in the flesh we want to handle it ourselves. We seek to get even, but we ought to pray instead. [Luke 6:28](#) - **Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you.** Rather than getting bitter and seeking a way to get even, pray that God will deal with the hearts of those who wronged you. Pray that God will convict their hearts. It is futile to hope for a suitable outcome if the Lord isn't working in their lives. We can't change their minds or hearts, but God can.

**B. Prayer for Dedication** (4-5) – David also prayed for those whom he loved and trusted. He prayed that they would commit their lives in submission to the Lord. This prayer for dedication is two-fold. It involves:

**1. An Honest Examination** (4) – [Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.](#) If we get the first aspect of prayer right, we will have no trouble standing in awe of the God. We will see Him as He is and ourselves as we are. When I consider all that God is, I see just how small and sinful I am.

- David also reveals that we are to commune with God from our own hearts. We are to seek the Lord and share our hearts with Him, the good and the bad. It is impossible to pray when we are unwilling to be honest before the Lord. If we refuse to search our hearts and open them up before Him, then we have not prayed at all. If there is sin in our lives, it must be dealt with. If there are concerns or fears, we need to share them with the Lord as well.

**2. A Humble Expression** (5) – [Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.](#) Every time we pray, we ought to be committed to offer worship unto the Lord. Many times our prayers are consumed with our wants and desires. We tell the Lord all that is wrong in our lives and we fail to take the time to worship. It would do you good to go the Lord at times and not ask Him for a thing, just spend some time praising Him and thanking Him for all that He is and all He has done. At the very least, make sure that every prayer offers worship to the Lord.

**C. Prayer for Instruction** (6) – [There be many that say, Who will shew us any good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.](#) Evidently some around David were pessimistic and doubted the provision of God. David prayed that God would reveal Himself unto them and extend His abundant favor. We all get discouraged and doubtful at times. That is simply within our nature, but we must learn to trust the Lord. He is never pleased when we doubt Him. In times of doubt and discouragement, ask the Lord to lift your heart and show you what He desires for your life. We walk by faith and not by sight.

- More times than not we must trust the Lord, because we can't see all that He is doing or where His path will lead. I pray every day for the wisdom and guidance of the Lord. We will never make it if we don't have the hand of God leading us. Pray that God will give you wisdom and the ability to allow Him to oversee and lead every area of your life. We certainly need the guidance of the Lord in these difficult times!

**III. The Praise of Prayer (7-8)** – David has perceived the Lord and brought his particular needs before Him, and know he closes his prayer with a personal tone. David likely was reminded of all he had in the Lord as he prayed about the needs of others. He could not end this prayer without taking the time to praise the Lord. He realized:

**A. God is our Joy (7)** – *Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased.* Even though his enemies prospered, David realized he was blessed more than they because he had the joy and gladness of the Lord within his heart. They might have enjoyed the abundance of material blessings and even a place of prominence, but he enjoyed the joy of the Lord. I fear that we often take the joy our Lord gives for granted. We are a blessed people. We have much more to be thankful for than the majority of the world. But, my joy doesn't rest in the material blessings of this life. Those things are nice, but they never satisfy.

- One who has the joy of the Lord has a contentment that this world knows nothing of. I have witnessed those who were struggling to get by, maybe their lives were plagued with affliction or disease, but they still had a song in their heart. What allows them to rejoice when it seems that life has brought much difficulty? It is the joy and gladness that only Jesus gives. Praise the Lord for the joy and contentment He brings.

**B. God is our Peace (8)** – *I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.* If this was in fact during Absalom's rebellion, there would've been those who sought David's life. There would've been days when he faced death, but even then David could lie down and sleep with peace in his heart because he knew in whom he believed.

- This world doesn't understand the peace we have in the Lord. Often there are situations we face in life that are beyond our control. There are times when we are uncertain about the future or the outcome of particular circumstances, but even then we have the peace of God within our hearts.
- There is much that troubles me about the current environment of our nation. I have no way of knowing what we will face tomorrow or the next day, but I have a peace that passes all

understanding. I have put my faith and trust in One who has never failed me. He always brings to pass that which is best for me. The storms of life may rage; there may be valleys to endure and battles to fight, but I am secure in my Lord. I can sleep at night with full assurance in Jesus. If I fail to see the light of another day, I will have just begun to live anyway. Let us be careful to thank and praise the Lord for the joy and the peace that He gives.

**Conclusion:** I trust that you have been challenged concerning your prayer life. There is no doubt we all could pray more than we do. We need to become so familiar with prayer that we could not miss that special time with the Lord. It is a special time when we are allowed the privilege to commune and fellowship with our God. Let us make the most of every opportunity to pray. Maybe you just need to come and talk to the Lord right now.