

Security under His Wings

Psalm 17: 6-9

Have you ever found yourself in a moment of desperation, a time when you needed help facing a situation that you were unable to handle, that would have devastating results if help wasn't received immediately? Surely we all have faced situations when immediate intervention was required if we were to overcome. There are times when we need the assistance of a friend or associate, and yet there are times when only the presence and power of God will suffice.

Again we have read a psalm written by David, but this one is a bit different than those we have considered in the past. This particular psalm is recorded as a prayer of David. This one is the first of five such psalms written as prayers. There is no doubt that David found himself in a perilous situation, needing the Lord to intervene on his behalf. Like many before, most agree this psalm was written as David roamed the wilderness areas while on the run from Saul.

Many scholars also view this psalm as being a Messianic passage. They contend such words and thoughts must belong to one greater than David. They believe this psalm is prophetic of the prayer Jesus would pray in the Garden of Gethsemane prior to the crucifixion.

I think we would do no injustice to the text from either approach. Clearly David was in deep distress while writing these words and they do appear to bear application to the time Jesus spent in the Garden. Regardless, there is comfort and hope for the believer within this passage. Let's consider the [details](#) of the text as we think on: [Security under His Wings](#).

I. A Cry of Despair (6) – [I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech.](#) In a moment of desperation, David cried out unto the Lord. Notice:

A. His Communication – [I have called upon thee.](#) It is clear he faced a situation that required immediate attention and only the Lord had the ability to handle the situation. He called upon the Lord in his time of need. As we think of this, we must consider the relationship David enjoyed with the Father as well. He hadn't waited until a moment of despair to commune with the Lord. He was familiar with prayer and immediately began to communicate with God about his need.

- I know this may sound elementary, but we tend to allow our lives to become so busy at times that we fail to take care of the basic elements of our faith. We need to rely upon the Lord to meet our needs, knowing He is sovereign in our lives. We must be familiar with prayer, so much so, that when a need arises we are in a spiritual condition to pray. Make sure you spend time in prayer daily, on a consistent basis, and when a great need arises, prayer will come naturally.

B. His Anticipation (6) – *I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God.* David had walked with the Lord for some time now. He had faced great trials and adversities before. The Lord had met his need as a young shepherd tending sheep when faced with a lion and a bear. He had delivered him as he stood before the mighty giant, Goliath. David had no reason to expect anything different now. He anticipated God to hear his prayer and respond on his behalf. He prayed a prayer of anticipation by faith!

- As we face trials and burdens in life, we need to share this confidence and pray with expectant anticipation. If you have served the Lord for any length of time, you have experienced His provision in past. He continually meets our needs and we must live by faith, trusting He will continue to do so. Now, I am not advocating God will always answer immediately or in a manner we would like, but we can pray with confident anticipation, knowing God will hear and respond to our prayers according to His divine will. *Psalm 66:19-20 – But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer.* ^[20] *Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me.*

C. His Desperation (6b) – *incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech.* You can sense the desperation in David's voice here. He was in a very difficult situation, one which he could not overcome alone, and he cried out unto the Lord to meet his need. It is apparent that David knew God alone could meet his need, and he wasted no time in making his request known.

- Burdens and trials are a part of life. I don't know anyone who enjoys them, but we all face them. Whether we realize it or not, we are dependent on the Lord every moment of every day. He provides the very breath we breathe. However, there will be times when it becomes abundantly clear that we must have the Lord to intervene on our behalf. In those times, we must do as David and immediately call upon the Lord.

II. A Call for Deliverance (7-9) – Here we discover David's call unto the Lord for deliverance. He was confident in God's ability to meet his need because he knew the Lord. He was aware of:

A. God's Compassion (7a) – *Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness.* David had experienced the merciful compassion of the Lord in previous situations and he knew God would continue to show lovingkindness and meet his need. This has the idea of "*merciful favor, showing pity.*"

- It is comforting to know we serve a loving, compassionate Lord. Every child of God has experienced the mercies and compassion of God. There is no greater example of His merciful favor being revealed toward our desperate state than sending His Son to die in our place to

redeem us from sin. Such compassion cannot be denied. If Christ loved us enough to die for our sin, in order to redeem us and provide eternal life, surely He loves us enough to care for and meet our needs as we walk this journey of life.

B. God's Character (7b) – *Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them.* David was also confident in the Lord's ability because he was familiar with His character. He is a God of power and righteousness, providing for and meeting the needs of those who are His. David had certainly experienced the saving power of God in the past and he had no reason to doubt God now!

- In our times of desperation, we need to be reminded of the character of our God as well. He is the Creator and sustainer of life. He is sovereign over every aspect of our lives and the world in which we live. Christ purchased our redemption with His own blood, saving us by His power and grace. Surely we can trust the Lord to meet the needs that arise within our lives! **2 Chron.16:9** – *For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.* **Isaiah 41:10** – *Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.*

C. God's Choosing (8a) – *Keep me as the apple of the eye.* David rejoiced in his relationship with the Lord. He had been chosen of the Lord and he wanted to ensure his closeness with the Lord remained. David knew it was purely the grace of God that had brought such blessing and provision to his life, but he was also certain of God's love for him. He wanted to remain as the apple of God's eye.

- This is a phrase we find in Scripture, referring to the nation of Israel. They were chosen of God and special to him. The word apple is literally translated "*the little man of the eye.*" It refers to the reflection of ourselves we see when we stare closely in the eyes of someone else. It is the pupil, the center of the eye, that portion that is most delicate and sensitive. We are not of Israel, but we too have been chosen of the Lord. His love for us was proven on the cross of Calvary. I am not concerned with being forsaken of Him, but I do desire to maintain that closeness with my Lord. In the midst of adversity, I have hope when I am reminded of His great love for me!

D. God's Concealment (8b) – *hide me under the shadow of thy wings.* Bear in mind the great adversity David endured at this moment in time. He was likely surrounded by those who sought his life. He had no defense save in the Lord alone. He cried out unto the Lord to be sheltered under the shadow of His wings, hidden within His power and presence!

- Being raised on a farm, I have often thought of this beautiful illustration. A mother hen is very observant and protectant of her young chicks. At the slightest hint of danger, she clucks and spreads her wings. The chicks immediately rush under the mother and she closes her wings around them, sheltering them from danger. That is exactly what we find in the Lord. When the stormy winds blow or the enemy is near at hand, we have a hiding place under the shadow of His mighty wings. There the enemy cannot find us, and even if he could, he could never penetrate the shield of power that envelopes us! What a Savior we serve; One who is mighty to save!

E. God's Comfort (9) – *From the wicked that oppress me, from my deadly enemies, who compass me about.* This reveals the great comfort and assurance David enjoyed in the presence of the Lord. He knew while covered by the Lord, the wicked and deadly enemies would not prevail. They may have compassed him about, but they could not get to him because of the covering he enjoyed.

- That is shouting ground! All the saved enjoy such comfort and provision in the Lord. We can rest in the awesome power and sovereignty of our Lord. We will face nothing that He doesn't allow. We are secure within His mighty grip. There is nothing in this life or death itself that can remove us from the hand of our Lord. *John 10:28-29 – And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. [29] My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

Conclusion: This has been a very uplifting passage. I am thankful for the provision I have in Christ. I rejoice for the great love and care He provides on a daily basis. I have received much more than I deserve, but I am thankful for the grace He freely offers.

Are you struggling with difficulty and pain? Are you facing a situation in life and need the Lord to intervene on your behalf? If so, bring that to Him. He is aware; He cares, and He is able. If you do not know the Lord as your Savior, respond to the call for salvation and be saved by His grace!