

PSALMS
Book 3
Psalms 86

A Prayer of David

1. Hear (“*incline Your ear*”), O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor (“*weak/afflicted*”) and needy (“*in want, poor*”). (Ps 31:1-2)

- a. Guard (“*preserve*”) my life, for I am devoted (“*godly*”, *the object of Your covenant love*) to You.
- b. You are my God; save (*or*, “*deliver*”) Your servant who trusts in You.
- c. Have mercy (“*show favor, be gracious*”) on me, O Lord, for I call to [You] all day long.
- d. Bring joy to Your servant, for to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

2. You are forgiving and good, O LORD, abounding in love* to all who call [to You].

- a. Hear my prayer, O LORD; listen to my cry (“*voice*”) for mercy. (Ps 130:2, Mt 6:8)
- b. In the day of my trouble (“*adversity, trouble*”), I will call to (“*call on*”) [you], for You will answer [me]. (Ps 50:15)
- c. Among the gods [there is] none like You, O Lord; no deeds can compare with Yours. (Ex 15:11)
- d. All the nations You have made will come and worship before You, O LORD; they will bring glory to Your name. (Rev 15:4)
 - For You are great and do marvelous deeds;
 - You alone are God.

3. Teach me Your way, O LORD, and I will walk (“*go*”) in Your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear (*hold in awe, reverence*) Your name. (Jer 33:29)

- a. I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify (“*honor*”) Your name forever.
- b. For great is Your love* toward me; You have delivered me from the depths of the grave. (Rom 8:28-39)

4. The arrogant are attacking (“*rising up against*”) me, O God; a band of ruthless men (“*no pity or compassion*”) seeks my life - men without regard [for You]. (*They don't care about God. He and His desires do not count with them.*)

- a. But You, O Lord, are a compassionate and gracious (*or* “*kind, merciful*”) God, slow to anger, abounding in love* and faithfulness (*or* “*truth, firmness*”). (Ex 34:6-7)
- b. Turn to me and have mercy (“*show favor*”) on me;
 - grant Your strength to Your servant and save the son of Your maidservant.
 - Give me a sign of Your goodness, that my enemies may see it and be put to shame, for You, O LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

* checed - “covenant loyalty, faithfulness, faithful love, kindness, loving-kindness” the word is rich in meaning and is used to describe God’s love toward His people.

Psalm 86
A Prayer of David

David calls to God to hear his prayer. He felt weak and needy and desired God's help.

- Why might God ignore prayer? (Ps 66:18, Jas 4:1-10)
- He acknowledged God as his Savior and expressed his trust in Him.
- He asks for favor, mercy and joy as he looks to his King for aid.

David here again asks God to hear his prayer.

- He expresses confidence that God would respond.
- He acknowledges God's uniqueness and asserts that all will worship Him (Phil 2:5-10)
 - * God is great and does what no one else can do.
 - * He alone is God.

David asks God to teach him His ways that he might walk in them.

- He asks for an undivided heart. Do you ask God to teach you and help you remain faithful? As it is written, we often "have not because we ask not."
- David is determined to praise God and honor Him. How do we speak and act? Does it reflect our faith in Him or something else?
- God's love is great! Think of the cross! (Jn 3:16)

Finally, David expresses the reason for his prayer - he is under attack by enemies. But despite the hostility of his enemies, he knows he is in good hands. He reflects on God's character:

- This is God's own description of Himself (EX 34:6-7) Compassionate, merciful, etc.
- SO he has confidence to ask God for salvation. He knows who God is. Do you?