

Psalm 86

Introduction: This is one of the five Psalms that bears the word “prayer” that is a transliteration of the Hebrew word Tephilla [(tef·il·lä') (Strong's H8605)] in the title.

The use of Jehovah, the name by which GOD revealed Himself to Moses, and Adonai which means Master or Lord runs constant through this Psalm. Jehovah expresses the real Being of GOD, His self-existence, His eternity, immutability, His constancy and faithfulness in bringing about His promises. Jehovah not only expresses Who the LORD GOD is in all of time, not just past, present, and future; but the sense is - not only Who He is at present or in the moment He revealed Himself to Moses, but that “I AM” what I have been and “I AM” what I shall be. This is expressed in The Revelation as “I am the First and the Last. We see “I AM” used, especially in the Gospel of John, as the Lord Jesus reveals Himself.

Notice the relation between David's calling on the Name of the LORD and the “for” or because. The “because” in this Psalm is expressed in petition and praise in line of Who the LORD GOD is.

I want to express the encouragement that we have that the saints today pray in the same manner as King David (a man after GOD's Own heart). It strengthens my heart to hear my brothers and sisters pray in a like manner right here in this building as did King David. The encouragement is spoken of in: [Jeremiah 6:16 NASB] **16 Thus says the LORD, 'Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, Where the good way is, and walk in it; And you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'**

Read Psalm 86

The Psalms give us GOD's Word and give us words that we may speak to Him.

In this psalm which is a prayer the attributes of the LORD GOD are confessed and praised heartily as well as the need of Him and His mercy and grace.

I want us to consider this Psalm in the light of that which is expressed by David are marks of those born again that are not just simply spoken, but “known”.

Marks of the converted soul:

- There is an admission of the LORD GOD’s sovereignty and mercy expressed as King David cries out to the LORD. He admits that if his prayer is to be heard that GOD must bow or incline His ear. David admits and confesses that the LORD must condescend; that He must mercifully incline His ear and show favor if he is to be heard. This is the fruit of our LORD’s salvation. Such a request could never come from a pride stiffened heart. The miracle of salvation, of man being humbled and the LORD being exalted, is the fruit and joy that is displayed in this prayer.
- David’s admission of being weak and needy.....
King David confesses his being afflicted and his deepest need. The LORD Jesus proclaims that the poor in spirit are blessed. This is a direct contrast with what the world calls blessed. David’s prayer displays the characteristics in which our LORD proclaims of those who are blessed. The thirsting and hungering for Righteousness looks like what we are given in this Psalm.
- David speaks with such an assurance as he declares himself to be a godly man. If this statement were made apart from his prior and latter confessions, then it would have the appearance of presumption. However, this declaration is made with acknowledging his own sinfulness and deep need for GOD’s grace. This assurance is not to be confused with presumption. David does not arrogantly come before GOD as though there is an obligation to be met. An example of presumption and assurance contrasted is the account of the Pharisee and the tax collector in the Gospel of: [Luke 18:11-14 NASB] **11 "The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 'I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.' 13 "But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!' 14 "I tell you, this man went to**

his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

Notice there is but one man that went away justified and this is the one who by the LORD's grace approached His Throne in humility, knowing his own sin and knowing the Father's holiness and mercy.

- There is a confession of trusting the LORD, the need of the LORD's grace, that He is the only One that can make the soul glad as He is the caretaker of the souls of His people.
- We see a confession of the LORD's goodness and His being ready to forgive His repenting people; that He is abundant in lovingkindness. David not only lays hold of this promise by the LORD's mercy for himself, but for all who call upon the LORD. The Christian will go before the Throne of GOD to intercede for his brothers and sisters.
- In verse 6 there is again an acknowledgement of GOD's sovereignty as well as a plea to be heard as he cries out to the LORD in supplication. Then we see a praise that our Father hears and answers. The miracle of knowing GOD's gracious love is expressed - [Psalm 8:4 NASB] **4 What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him?**
- David professes that there is none like GOD. We see once again the word "god" (lower case letters) used to represent men whom GOD has given authority. We are not to trust or hope in man, but the LORD GOD only.
- David acknowledges that every soul will glorify the LORD GOD, either by being recipients of His grace or His justice. He pronounces that which the Apostle Paul declared in his epistle to the Romans as he speaks of all standing before the judgement seat of GOD – (Romans 14:11) **that every knee will bow to Him and every tongue shall praise Him.**
- GOD's greatness and wondrous deeds are praised because He is the Great I AM.

- In verse 11 there is a plea made to be taught His Way and for the heart to be united to fear His Name that will result in walking in His Truth. This will mark the Christians life – living upon the mercifully revealed Truth by His grace and for His glory. David then gives thanks to the LORD GOD “with all his heart”. You see there is a delight, joy, and exuberance in the believer that will come out.
- David praises the LORD mightily with a heart of flesh that was granted. He praises the LORD for His lovingkindness or mercy, His deliverance from the kingdom of darkness to the Kingdom of light, His grace, and His slowness to anger. In this is seen a great concern for the Glory of GOD.

Closing: That which we have been shown of King David in this prayer will mark the believer’s life. I have used words like confession, profession, acknowledging, pronouncing, and admitting often in this exposition. These are Works and the Mercy of the LORD and not faculties that we conjure up. Such will come from a heart changed by the miracle of our LORD’s salvation - [Romans 10:10 NASB] **10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.** This is what biblical confessing and believing looks like. They have GOD given results of His salvation! In each profession or proclamation of the Truth of Who GOD is and of His Works, therein lies a praise. David upholds the Mighty Name of GOD by the miracle of GOD’s grace that is “worked out” by his acknowledging and praising Him.

Please consider the mercy of being heard by the Great Shepherd as we have seen David’s plea to be heard.

Consider that which we are given in the Gospel of John chapter 10 – His sheep know His voice – He calls us out by name – He knows us and His own know Him. Our LORD doesn’t simply open the door for His sheep to go out to the pasture, but He goes before us.

Consider GOD's mercy as seen in the following verses:

[Job 7:17 NASB] 17 "What is man that You magnify him, And that You are concerned about him,

[Job 15:14 NASB] 14 "What is man, that he should be pure, Or he who is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?

[Psalm 8:4 NASB] 4 What is man that You take thought of him, And the son of man that You care for him?

[Psalm 144:3 NASB] 3 O LORD, what is man, that You take knowledge of him? Or the son of man, that You think of him?

[Hebrews 2:6 NASB] 6 But one has testified somewhere, saying, "WHAT IS MAN, THAT YOU REMEMBER HIM? OR THE SON OF MAN, THAT YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM?

Does He call you by name? Does He know you and do you know Him? Do you know by experience His mercy and grace for His glory being expressed to you by His concern for you? Does your heart rejoice? If not, I plead with you to run to the Savior and at this very moment. Run to Him that you may repent and believe!

Amen

Notes:

Psalms 17, 86, 90, 102, 142, and 143 – 17, 86, and 142 are attributed to King David, Psalm 90 is the prayer of Moses, and Psalm 102 is a prayer of the afflicted.

Psalms 4, 55, 64, and 143 David asks of the LORD GOD to give ear to His prayer either in the title or within the first verse.

Occurs 32 times in 29 verses in the Psalms in the NASB.

Transliteration – to transcribe a word into corresponding letters of another alphabet.

Translate – express the sense of a word in another language.

A translation tells you the meaning of words in another language. A transliteration doesn't tell you the meaning of the words, but it helps you pronounce them. Transliteration changes the letters from one alphabet or language into the corresponding, similar-sounding characters of another alphabet.