

GOD IS PERFECT IN ALL OF HIS WAYS

Psalm 86

**A Prayer for Mercy, with Meditation on the Excellencies of the Lord
A Prayer of David.**

Bow down Your ear, O Lord, hear me; For I am poor and needy.
Preserve my life, for I am holy; You are my God;
Save Your servant who trusts in You!

Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I cry to You all day long.
Rejoice the soul of Your servant, for to You, O Lord, I lift up my
soul. For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in
mercy to all those who call upon You.

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; And attend to the voice of my
supplications. In the day of my trouble I will call upon You,
For You will answer me.

Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord; Nor are there any
works like Your works. All nations whom You have made shall come and
worship before You, O Lord, and shall glorify Your name. For You are
great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God.

Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart
to fear Your name. I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my
heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore. For great is Your
mercy toward me, and You have delivered my soul from the depths of
Sheol.

O God, the proud have risen against me, and a mob of violent men have
sought my life, and have not set You before them. But You, O Lord,
are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and
abundant in mercy and truth. Oh, turn to me, and have mercy on me!
Give Your strength to Your servant, and save the son of Your
maidservant.

Show me a sign for good, that those who hate me may see it and be
ashamed, because You, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

This was not initially intended to be as much a teaching message as
it is a prayer to THE Lord God Almighty for His mercies and grace, to
our Lord, God and Savior! To close, we will use this prayer of
David's for our prayer. I think many of us can relate to what David
was praying. As this was David's prayer to His Lord, God, and Savior,
it then can be ours today, as well, praying for God's mercies and
grace, to help us in our desperate time in need. Biblegateway.com

states this as "A Prayer for Mercy, with Meditation on the Excellencies of the Lord. A Prayer of David." I also like how my Bible entitles this Psalm as, a "Supplication to the compassionate God".

While I did say this was not intended to be as much a teaching message as it is a prayer, nevertheless, what I, and we are being taught by the Holy Spirit of God, and through God's Word, is that we must realize and let it become us, in our minds and hearts, to have a more meaningful and effective prayer, is to know God is, in the Words of our Risen Savior, Jesus, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." (**Revelation 1:8**) There is most specifically three vital elements that are not only found in the two subsequent titles (titles added later to this Psalm) that I just read on this Psalm, but also in the Psalm itself. It is what we are going to focus in on in OUR prayer to our Lord, God, and Savior, who was and is and forever shall be, the same as of whom King David was speaking to in this Psalm.

Those three most important things that must be always before us, and really to become us, when we go to God in prayer, is that we must know God, trust God, and then honor God for who He is.

1. We must therefore have the right perspective of who God is. We must **KNOW GOD**. The Apostle Paul said in **Colossians 1:16**, "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him." God is the Creator of all things. God is also the Sustainer of all things. The start of the book of Hebrews says, "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the **brightness of His glory** and the **express image of His person**, and **upholding all things by the word of His power**, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. (**Hebrews 1:1-4**)

Notice both of those passages of Scripture, in Colossians and Hebrews, speak of God the Father not being alone in the process of Creation and in sustaining all things. His only begotten Son, whom we call in the English language, Jesus, is part of the godhead, or as well call it, the Trinity of God. "For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one." (**1 John 5:7**) The Word we know is Jesus, who is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. God was and is and always shall be, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit-three persons, so to speak, yet those three are but one God. The Apostle

John, who self-described himself as "the one whom Jesus loved (**John 13:23**), started his gospel account of Jesus, in the book of John, saying, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. (**John 1:1-5**) John continues in verse 10, after talking about John the Baptist, who was ordained by God, and spoken of in prophesy, to prepare the way for the coming of Christ, "He [Jesus] was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him [literally], to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. [to be born-again] And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (**John 1:10-14**)

So God is our God and Creator, He is our Lord and Sustainer, and He is our Savior. There is but one way to become right with God. As Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (**John 14:6**)

2. Another thing that must become us in our going to God in prayer, as it relates to who God is, is that God is perfect in ALL of His ways. We therefore must learn to **TRUST GOD**. That's something that will come up time and time again as one is wrestling with God in prayer, asking, asking, and asking, and not getting what we are praying for. James, the half-brother of Jesus, said in chapter four of his epistle, "you do not have because you do not ask" (**James 4:2**) but he also explains that you may not receive what you are asking for because you aren't asking for the right reasons (like for your own selfish gains), or really, succinctly put, it just isn't yet in the timing or the will of God. He goes on to ask, "do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up." (**James 4:5-10**) That may seem tough when you're just praying for other people's salvations, deliverances, or healings, but have you been brought to having a heart that laments, mourns and weeps, and not just for yourself but for others?

Has it become you to know, in your heart, that God, through Christ, is alone our Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption, as He is for all those He chooses to save? (**1 Corinthians 1:30**) We alone cannot heal, save, or deliver anyone-but Jesus can! Another half-brother of Jesus, Jude, said in his one chapter epistle, "To God our Savior, **who alone is wise**, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen." (**Jude 25**) God alone is all-wise, we are not. Our God and Savior alone is all-wise, and we must humble ourselves before our Lord, God, and Savior, and we must honor Him as the Sovereign, All-Wise, Eternal God that He is. Admittedly, that has been hard at times for me, as it likely is for anyone who sees the suffering and injustice and evil that so prevails in our world today.

God IS perfect in all of His Ways. David acknowledged that in saying, "As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him." That gives us point number two in our going to God in prayer. Since He is perfect in all of His ways, we must let it become us to trust Him. Just as King David's son Solomon said in **Proverbs 3:5-6**, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Solomon could have added, "in all your ways acknowledge Him [for who He is], and He shall direct your paths." As Solomon spoke of trusting God with all of our heart, it should also be becoming us to love God with ALL of our hearts and then loving others as ourselves.

3. That brings us to point number three that must not only be before us in knowledge and understanding but must become us-to honor and praise and worship God for who He is: our God, our Lord, and our Savior. I like what David says in **Psalms 145:3**, "Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; And His greatness is unsearchable." Then in **verses 8-9** he says, "The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works."

That leads us into looking at **Psalms 86**. David begins saying, "Bow down Your ear, O Lord, hear me; For I am poor and needy. Preserve my life, for I am holy; You are my God; Save Your servant who trusts in You! Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I cry to You all day long. Rejoice the soul of Your servant, for to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You. Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; And attend to the voice of my supplications. In the day of my trouble I will call upon You, **For You will answer me.**" David acknowledges God as His Lord and His God. He humbles himself before the Lord asking Him for His mercies acknowledging God for being the One who sustains us and keeps us. David acknowledges God for being good and abundant in mercy to all who call upon Him." David shows us in this Psalm that he knows God, trusts God, and praises God **for who He is!**

I love the next part of David's Psalm. He says, "Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord; Nor are there any works like Your works. All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and shall glorify Your name. For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God." While many nations had and still have other gods, there is but one God. That reminds me of the start of **Psalm 121**, "I will lift up my eyes to the hills—From whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth." (**Psalm 121:1-2**) Many had their "gods" of wood and stone erected in the high places, in the Old Testament times. "You alone are God." That fact alone should garner our praise, honor, and respect.

Next though, David says, "Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore. For great is Your mercy toward me, and You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol." God wants us to know Him, to know His ways and to know He IS great in mercy. As the saying goes, 'It's not up to us to get God on our plan, it is up to us to know God and to get on His plan.' To know Him, to trust Him, to know He is full of mercy and grace. Not only that, David continues, "O God, the proud have risen against me, and a mob of violent men have sought my life, and have not set You before them. But You, O Lord, are a God **full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth**. Oh, turn to me, and have mercy on me! Give Your strength to Your servant, and save the son of Your maidservant."

God is perfect in what is called the fruit of the Spirit, "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (**Galatians 5:22-23**) He is "the Way, the Truth, and the Life." As Jesus said, "No one comes to the Father except through Me." (**John 14:6**) He is our perfection in Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and our Redemption. (**1 Corinthians 1:30**) That is how David could say, "Preserve my life, for I am holy; You are my God; Save Your servant who trusts in You!" For all of us in Christ Jesus, we "are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, **His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him** who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;" (**1 Peter 2:9**)

Let us pray Psalm 86, as if it is our prayer to our Lord, God, and Savior. To pray this prayer you have to at least know God as your Lord, God, and Savior. If you believe on Jesus dying on the cross for your sins and raising from the dead on the third day, may you ask Jesus to come into your heart to be your Lord and Savior. It is only in Christ that we can be saved, for Him to then be our Lord, God and Savior.

Psalm 86

Bow down Your ear, O Lord, hear me; For I am poor and needy. Preserve my life, for I am holy; You are my God; Save Your servant who trusts in You!

Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I cry to You all day long. Rejoice the soul of Your servant, for to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; And attend to the voice of my supplications. In the day of my trouble I will call upon You, for You will answer me.

Among the gods there is none like You, O Lord; Nor are there any works like Your works. All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and shall glorify Your name. For You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God.

Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore. For great is Your mercy toward me, and You have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.

O God, the proud have risen against me, and a mob of violent men have sought my life, and have not set You before them. But You, O Lord, are a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in mercy and truth. Oh, turn to me, and have mercy on me! Give Your strength to Your servant, and save the son of Your maidservant.

Show me a sign for good, that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed, because You, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.