

Sunday Night Message

June 02, 2013

Psalm 28 – God Answers Prayer

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 28

Introduction

This another of the Psalms of David, and like many of the Psalms that we have examined recently, this one is extremely personal, and seems to be born out of a time when David was experiencing the trials and tribulations of life.

Saul; Absalom

It does not seem to be a Psalm that is reflective of David's sin with Bathsheba, or murder of Uriah; or even of the time that David sinned against God by numbering the people. This Psalm seems to refer to a time when an enemy was pursuing David.

I David's Present Petition to the Lord (vs. 1 – 5)

A Prayer for the Presence of God (vs. 1 – 3)

Notice that David refers to the Lord as "[his] rock". (also - Deuteronomy 32:4)

David uses this expression 23 times.

"The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted." (Psalms 18:46)

A rock is something you can stand on. It something that you can depend on to hold you up, and keep you from falling.

"Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which

the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great." (Luke 6:47-49)

Jesus is our rock of our salvation – He is the chief cornerstone of the church.

This book is a rock – you can depend on the principles contained in it – they are eternal, and they won't ever fail you.

Notice in vs. 1 – 3 – the thing that distinguishes God's people from the lost is that God answers the prayers of His children. David says that if the Lord was to remain silent to him, he would be no different from "them that go down into the pit".

This phrase appears nearly 20 times especially in the Psalms and in the Book of Ezekiel – see Psalm 30:3; 55:23. It is used a reference to death, the grave, and destruction. Sometimes (not always) it is used metaphorically to reference the spiritual death of the lost in Hell, for those that are saved don't really die.

"And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?" (John 11:26)

"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." (2 Corinthians 5:8)

Notice in verse 2 – "thy holy oracle" (see 1 Kings 8:6 – 11)

The oracle was the Holy of Holies: the inner room in the temple beyond the curtain that separated it from the Holy Place. It contained the ark of the covenant, with the mercy on the top. It was the place of forgiveness for the people of God. The blood that was sprinkled on the mercy seat provided a temporary covering for sin, and pictured the ultimate and permanent offering of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ once and for all.

David, by praying toward this oracle, was stating that his basis for even asking for communion with God came only through the forgiveness that he experienced through the blood sacrifice. In other words, David knew that he was child of God through faith in the blood of the coming Messiah.

We who are saved can also come boldly (through the Lord Jesus Christ) to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4:16)

Notice in v. 3 – David does not want to be anything like the lost world. (Psalm 26:9 – 10)

David wants to stay as far away from that crowd as possible.

David prayed that God would keep him separated.

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you," (2 Corinthians 6:17)

B Prayer for the Punishment of David's (and God's) Enemies (vs. 4 – 5)

We are not to rejoice when our enemies fall.

"Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:" (Proverbs 24:17)

We are to feed our enemies if they are hungry.

"If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:" (Proverbs 25:21)

We are to love and pray for our enemies.

"But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;" (Matthew 5:44)

But, I do not blame David for wanting God to do something about his enemies. I feel the same way at times. Praying to God about it is a good way to deal with it. You are trusting in God to do what is right regarding the enemies of God's people. You are leaving the judgment in his hands. We are not judge those that are without. God handles that.

II David's Past Prayer Experience (vs. 6 – 7)

We will come back to this in a minute, but let's first look at:

III God's Principle and David's Prayer for His People (vs. 8 - 9)

In the immediate context, these verses primarily apply to Israel; but we are also his people:

*"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: **Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God:** which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy." (1 Peter 2:9-10)*

We are also His inheritance:

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory." (Ephesians 1:7-14)

v. 8 - Promises for the present

v. 9 - A Prayer for the future

Look again at verses 6 - 7

David trusted in God.

David prayed to God.

David praised God.

If you believe God loves you and cares for you and wants you to depend on Him, you will pray too; and then you will rejoice in the goodness of God.

A few months ago, we studied the prayer of Jabez from 1 Chronicles 4:9 – 10. Jabez, like David was a believer in prayer. We compared this prayer with the prayer principles given by the Lord Jesus in the model prayer from Luke 11:1 - 13

- 1 **God's Praise** – compare 1 Chronicles 4:10 with Luke 11:2
- 2 **God's Pleasure** – compare “saying, Oh that thou wouldst” with “Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth” (Luke 11:2)
- 3 **God's Provision** – compare “bless me indeed” with “Give us day by day our daily bread” (Luke 11:3)
- 4 **God's People** – compare “and enlarge my coast with Luke 11:5 – 6.
- 5 **God's Power** – compare “and that thine hand might be with me” with Luke 11:13.
- 6 **God's Protection** – compare “and that thou wouldst keep me from evil” with Luke 11:4
- 7 **Peace** – compare “that it may not grieve me!” with Luke 11:4 (“and forgive us..)

When you boil it all down, in both of these prayers we see the three basic elements of prayer:

Praise – which includes worship for who God is, and praise for what God has done.

Penitence – a humble attitude along with a complete confession of all sins.

Petition – asking – God's power, protection, provision for God's people first, then provision for myself.

The fact is that God answers prayer. David understood this, because he prayed. The Psalms are full of the prayers of David. Jabez understood this. Hezekiah understood this. The Lord Jesus taught us how to pray.

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may

be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."
(James 5:16)

"Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not." (James 4:2)

God answers prayer.

(Note – there are hindrances to prayer – lack of faith; sin in our life; requests out of the will of God; relationship problems – marriage problems; unforgiveness toward thy brother or sister)

Prayer Quotes

"I live in the spirit of prayer. I pray as I walk about, when I lie down and when I rise up. And the answers are always coming. Thousands and tens of thousands of times have my prayers been answered. When once I am persuaded that a thing is right and for the glory of God, I go on praying for it until the answer comes. George Mueller never gives up!" (George Mueller)

"Prayer is of transcendent importance. Prayer is the mightiest agent to advance God's work. Praying hearts and hands only can do God's work. Prayer succeeds when all else fails." (E. M. Bounds)

"We can do nothing without prayer. All things can be done by importunate prayer. It surmounts or removes all obstacles, overcomes every resisting force and gains its ends in the face of invincible hindrances." (E. M. Bounds)

"The church that is not jealously protected by mighty intercession and sacrificial labors will before long become the abode of every evil bird and the hiding place for unsuspected corruption. The creeping wilderness will soon take over that church that trusts in its own strength and forgets to watch and pray." (A. W. Tozer)

"The idea that everything would happen exactly as it does regardless of whether we pray or not is a specter that haunts the minds of many who sincerely profess belief in God. It makes prayer psychologically impossible, replacing it with dead ritual at best." (David Brainerd)

"Whether we like it or not, asking is the rule of the Kingdom. If you may

have everything by asking in His Name, and nothing without asking, I beg you to see how absolutely vital **prayer** is." (Charles Spurgeon)

Illustration (Charles Spurgeon preached to over 10,000,000 people) Five young college students were spending a Sunday in London, so they went to hear the famed C.H. Spurgeon preach. While waiting for the doors to open, the students were greeted by a man who asked, "Gentlemen, let me show you around. Would you like to see the heating plant of this church?" They were not particularly interested, for it was a hot day in July. But they didn't want to offend the stranger, so they consented. The young men were taken down a stairway, a door was quietly opened, and their guide whispered, "This is our heating plant." Surprised, the students saw 700 people bowed in prayer, seeking a blessing on the service that was soon to begin in the auditorium above. Softly closing the door, the gentleman then introduced himself. It was none other than Charles Spurgeon. (*Our Daily Bread*, April 24.)