



DESERT VIEW BIBLE CHURCH

SERIES: PRAYER • TOPIC: PRAYERFUL DEPENDENCE •

PSALM 28:1-9 • 3/20/2022

MAIN POINT

A life lived in faith is one that humbly recognizes total dependence on God in prayer.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Who do you typically turn to first in times of need? Why?

Describe a time you were desperate for the Lord to hear and answer your prayer.

If an unbeliever asked you why you pray to God, how would you answer?

In times of great need, we reveal where we place true value. In moments of desperation, we will always turn to the person or thing we believe has the most

power to provide a resolution to the issues we are facing. As those who follow Christ, we are to continually seek a growing dependence on His power and comfort. Today we will consider how David relied on God the Father in his times of greatest need, and the fact that God was faithful to hear David's prayers and act on his behalf. He does the same for His people today.

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

READ PSALM 28:1-2.

According to these two verses, how would you characterize David's relationship with the Lord? His level of dependence upon God?

What words and phrases give evidence of David's deep dependence on God?

In what sense are our very lives dependent on God's hearing and answering our prayers? In comparison to Psalm 28:1-2, how would you rate your level of dependence on God in prayer?

David didn't take prayer for granted. Rather, he pleaded with God to hear and answer him. God was David's rock, the only One able to provide him the security he needed. So he lifted up his hands to God in prayer. He cried out to Him for help. He recognized his desperate need for God and humbled himself before Him. Our attitude in prayer is often expressed in the words we say and the posture in which we say them. A life lived in faith is one that humbly recognizes total dependence on God in prayer.

READ PSALM 28:3-5.

Look at verse 5. Why did David call for God's judgment here?

Does David's language in these verses make you uncomfortable? Do you feel the freedom to pray to God this honestly? Why or why not?

David not only recognized his position of dependence on God, but he also recognized the seriousness of God's judgment. Not wanting to be judged as and counted among hypocritical sinners, David asked God to administer divine justice. This wasn't simply an attitude of, "Get them good, God!" Rather, David longed for God's righteousness to be revealed and for evil to not have victory. A life lived in faith is one that honestly acknowledges sin and recognizes God's power to judge in prayer.

READ PSALM 28:6-9.

What principles about prayer do you find in these verses? How is God described here?

Does it seem strange to you that David's prayer turned from evil men to a celebration of God so quickly? Explain.

When have you celebrated the Lord even though your circumstances remained difficult? How did you do it? Why?

David's humility and honesty in prayer allowed him to see his position before God rightly. David didn't find strength in himself; he found it in the Lord. He didn't find protection in weapons or his own abilities; he found it in the Lord, his shield. So it didn't matter that his circumstances hadn't yet changed—he trusted in God,

knowing he had the help he needed. When we remember who God is, it helps us see our circumstances in light of eternity and depend wholly on Him in the meantime.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

What is a circumstance where you find it difficult to trust that the Lord is sufficient? How does Psalm 28 challenge and/or encourage you in that circumstance?

What does your current prayer life say about your level of dependence on the Lord?

What about our prayers as a group? Do we have hearts that plead, petition, and praise God? How can we grow in these areas? How does this type of dependent life give opportunity to share the gospel with others?

PRAYER

Thank God that He hears your prayers and helps you. Praise Him that He is your strength, shield, song, salvation, and shepherd. Invite Him to show you how you can depend on Him more in prayer.

COMMENTARY

28:1-2. David pleaded, To you I call, O Lord, my Rock. The Lord was his security. Do not turn a deaf ear to me, he prayed. If God was silent, giving the appearance that he did not hear his urgent pleas, he would be like those who had gone down to the pit (Heb. pada), a metaphor for death. In other words, if God failed to answer his prayer, David reasoned, his life would be no different from unbelievers who lived and died without divine deliverance. David's dependence on God is symbolized by his uplifted hands, indicating his reaching out toward the Most Holy Place. This Holy Place was the innermost part of the tabernacle that housed the ark of the covenant, the symbol of God's presence. David desperately needed God's help!

28:3. More specifically, David asked God not to drag him away with the wicked in judgment. Those who did evil deserved divine punishment because, although they spoke cordially with their neighbors, giving the appearance of outward godliness, they actually harbored malice in their hearts. Thus, he asked not to be judged with hypocritical sinners.

28:4-5. Pleading for divine justice, David petitioned God, Repay them for their deeds which are evil . This was a sober imprecation calling for divine wrath exercised on his behalf. He asked God to bring upon them what they deserved—severe judgment. So vile were their works that they showed no regard for the works of the Lord . Those who destroy God's works will certainly be destroyed.

28:6-7. Suddenly David's mood shifted from deepest concern to highest celebration without his circumstances changing. Believing that God would do right, he anticipated God's vindication. This dramatic difference in David occurred as he realized that God had heard his cry for mercy. Praise be to the Lord , he exulted, whom his heart trusts. The Lord was his strength. He enabled him to endure throughout this crisis. Likewise, God was his shield, protecting him from the assaults of his enemies. His heart leaped with joy as he gave thanks to God for this help.

28:8. God is the strength of all his people who trust him, empowering them to persevere through every trial. Similarly, God is a fortress of salvation for his anointed one. This is a reference by David to his royal position as the anointed king of Israel. God is the one who saves the king.

28:9. David concluded this psalm by offering a personal intercession on behalf of the entire nation. Save your people from all their enemies, he pleaded, and bless your inheritance, another reference to God's people (cp. Deut. 4:20; 1 Kgs. 8:51). He further appealed to God, their shepherd (cp. Ps. 23:1; Mic. 5:4; 7:14), to carry them forever like a shepherd would carry his sheep.