

PSALM 86

We have chosen this Psalm because we feel it is timely, and it is something that all of us can identify with and learn from. King David, of course, wrote many of the Psalms - some of which I identify with more than others, however there are all wonderful. This one just seemed special to me during a time of prayer and meditation. Christian meditation means to ponder, meditate, mutter, speak, study, utter using God's word. It never involves the act of emptying one's mind, it does not require positing the body, hands and fingers a certain way. Christian meditation always involves scripture.

Psalm 86:1-17 (KJV) A Prayer of David. Bow down thine ear, O LORD, hear me: for I *am* poor and needy. Preserve my soul; for I *am* holy: O thou my God, save thy servant that trusteth in thee. Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily. Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. For thou, Lord, *art* good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee. Give ear, O LORD, unto my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications. In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me. Among the gods *there is* none like unto thee, O Lord; neither *are there any works* like unto thy works. All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. For thou *art* great, and doest wondrous things: thou *art* God alone. Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name. I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore. For great *is* thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell. O God, the proud are risen against me, and the assemblies of violent *men* have sought after my soul; and have not set thee before them. But thou, O Lord, *art* a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth. O turn unto me, and have mercy upon me; give thy strength unto thy servant, and save the son of thine handmaid. Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see *it*, and be ashamed: because thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me.

Let us take some time to look more closely at this beautiful Psalm starting with verse one.

Psalm 86:1 (KJV) A Prayer of David. Bow down thine ear, O LORD, hear me: for I *am* poor and needy.

This is a request from David, a person who was intimately familiar with the Lord. David knew the Lord loved him, and the Lord knew David loved Lord. Asking the God of the universe, the omnipresent Lord to bow down His ear because he was poor and needy, indicates David was awestruck. David knew that God would do for him what he could not do for himself.

Psalm 86:2 (KJV) Preserve my soul; for I *am* holy: O thou my God, save thy servant that trusteth in thee.

David was a prophet; he had the coming upon of the Holy Spirit. Because he had the Holy Spirit living in him, he knew he was holy. His mind will and emotions were under siege. His soul needed to be strengthened, refreshed, and preserved. David asked to be saved, telling God that he was the Lord's servant, that had always trusted in Him. David knew that trust, blesses and honors the Lord as well as a humble spirit.

Psalm 86:3 (KJV) Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily.

David cries out only to his God. He trusts no other gods and no other men. Then daily, consistently, and fervently, he makes his supplications known to the Lord, for he knows Him as a merciful provider.

Psalm 86:4 (KJV) Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

David, a king calls himself a servant - one who worships and loves the Lord. He is obviously in duress and asks God to bring joy to his soul. Again, he mentions that he seeks the Lord daily. So, we see David pointing out that he seeks God daily, that he seeks no other gods, nor men and that he trusts the Lord completely.

Psalm 86:5 (KJV) For thou, Lord, *art* good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

David speaks of the mercy and goodness of the Lord, while mixing praise with his petitions. God's mercy and readiness to forgive is plentiful to all who look to Him.

Psalm 86:6 (KJV) Give ear, O LORD, unto my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications.

Once again David prays and humbly ask the Lord to hear his prayer. David has established an attitude of meekness and of worship and praise. He prays in detail with a desire to tarry and have intimate fellowship with the Lord.

Psalm 86:7 (KJV) In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me.

David has matured, he is seasoned, and knows trouble will come and go. When it comes, he looks only to the Lord.

Psalm 86:8 (KJV) Among the gods *there is* none like unto thee, O Lord; neither *are there any works* like unto thy works.

David knows there are many gods. David also knows that they have no power. They can do nothing for man, as they are idols, and have no redeeming grace.

Psalm 86:9 (KJV) All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.

Then, now, and particularly after Jesus second coming every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord.

Philippians 2:5-11 (KJV) states, *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death,*

even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Psalm 86:10 (KJV) For thou *art* great, and doest wondrous things: thou *art* God alone.

David speaks of the supernatural works, that only his God can do.

Psalm 86:11 (KJV) Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.

David understood the fear of the Lord. He knew to have a righteous, holy, fear of God, his heart must be united with the Lord's heart in truth. The scripture says that we can do nothing on our own, but we can do all things through Christ which strengthens us. The Hebrew translates the word fear as: holy, revere, a holy reverence of God.

Psalm 86:12 (KJV) I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore.

Praise, and glory from a pure heart is the Lord's desire. Praise from the names of the Lord is especially pleasing to Him.

Isaiah 9:6-7 (KJV) *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*

Psalm 86:13 (KJV) For great *is* thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.

David looks back to terrible times in his life, where the Lord has been merciful, delivering him from fear and torment.

Psalm 86:14 (KJV) O God, the proud are risen against me, and the assemblies of violent *men* have sought after my soul; and have not set thee before them.

Vicious heathens are threatening David's existence. David reminds the Lord that they do not regard him as God. There is urgency, as violent men are coming to destroy him. He makes his case again that he is faithful and focused on God alone.

Psalm 86:15 (KJV) But thou, O Lord, *art* a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

David speaks calming his own heart, by remembering the compassion, the grace, the Lord's patience, and even His mercy and truth.

Psalm 86:16 (KJV) O turn unto me, and have mercy upon me; give thy strength unto thy servant, and save the son of thine handmaid.

David makes his plea to the Lord by calling Him family, as he speaks of himself, being the son of God's handmaiden. Again, he boosts of the Lord's mercy.

Psalm 86:17 (KJV) Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see *it*, and be ashamed: because thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me.

David says the Lord helps him, comforts him, and gives him a token - a sign of being in covenant with God. He wants those who hate him, to be envious and jealous of his relationship with the Lord and for his enemies to know that they cannot harm him, because he is protected by his God.