

“THE GOD WHO CARRIES US FOREVER”

Psalm 28

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INTRODUCTION

You can trust the Lord—you really can, even when all circumstances tell you otherwise.

David was ready to go down to the Pit—he was in practical despair. Yet, he knew how to pray to God
When is the last time that you prayed and you felt like your prayers were bouncing off of the ceiling? Like there was a metal barrier that was closing off the heavens? Like God was ignoring you and your problems? Like He just is not listening and does not seem to care? How do you pray in a time like that?

This passage shows us the way.

YOU MUST LEARN HOW TO PRAY BIBLICALLY

- I. Lord, Don't be a Deaf and Dumb Rock (1-2)
 - A. I Call you (v. 1)—Hear the voice of my supplication (2)—Don't be deaf to me (1).
 - B. I cry to you for help (v. 2)—don't be dumb (silent) to me (v. 1).
 - C. I lift up my hands (praying from my heart) toward your Holy Sanctuary (2)—don't ignore me so that I go down to the Pit—death and Sheol—like the wicked.

- II. Lord, Do Right, and make a Difference between Me and the Wicked (3-5)
 - A. Don't drag me away as though I am just like the wicked (3)
 - They work iniquity.
 - They have evil in their hearts while they say “Shalom” to their companions and neighbors.
 - B. Give them what they deserve according to your justice—“Requite them” (twice) and “repay” them (4).
 - Their “work” is evil.
 - Their “practices” are “evil”.
 - Their hands perform evil deeds.
 - They deserve such pay—they have earned it.
 - C. The Wicked have not paid attention to God's works and deeds (v. 5; same words as v. 4)
 - If they had they would know how you judge wickedness.
 - If they had they would know how you reward the godly—such as me, His anointed.
 - D. God will tear them down and will not build them up. (v. 5)

- III. Lord, Blessed be You—My Strength and Shield and the Shepherd of Your People (6-9)
 - **God has answered “the voice of my supplication”**—see v. 2.
 - God is “blessed”, i.e. praised by His people.

- A. My offensive Help—Note “I am helped” (v. 7)
 1. The strength of His people: Note “my strength” and “their strength” (7, 8)
 2. Saves His people (9)
 3. Blesses His inheritance (9)
 4. Shepherds his people (9)
 5. Carries and lifts up His people (9)
- B. My Defensive Help—note “anointed”--Messiah
 1. My shield (7)
 2. My refuge of salvation—every form of deliverance (8)
- C. My Object of Trust, Exultation, Joy, and Thanksgiving
 1. My heart has trusted—and will trust—Him (v. 7)
 2. My heart exults (7)
 3. I thank Him with my song (7)

CONCLUSION

We need to learn how to pray properly!

- HONESTLY (1-2)
- PASSIONATELY (throughout, and from the heart)
- ACCORDING TO GOD’S DESIRES—In His will (3-5)
- JOYFULLY AND THANKFULLY (vv. 6-9)—exult, sing, thank
- THEOLOGICALLY ACCURATE (His **omnipotence**, His **holiness**, His **Unchangeableness**—Yahweh, His **Love** for His people, His **Justice** to reward the righteous and punish the wicked; His **Goodness**—shepherds and carries His own, saves them and blesses them)
- TRUSTINGLY—Even when all hope seems to be lost! [cf. vv. 1-2 with vv. 6-7]