

Prayer of a Fainting Soul
Psalm 143

What to do when you are amidst severe trial *and* you are fainting spiritually.

1. Seek God! (We see here David's approach to God) vv. 1-4

(1) David Prays! (1) *"Hear my prayer, O LORD,
give ear to my pleas for mercy!"*

(2) He takes the Proper Foundation for his Appeal (2)

- **He appeals to God's faithfulness** (Heb: truth) *"In your faithfulness answer me,
in Your righteousness!"*
 God's righteousness

- **He knows he cannot appeal based upon** *"Enter not into judgment with your servant,
For no one living is righteous before you."*
 his own righteousness or performance!

(3) He Lays His Need fully before the Lord (3-4)

- **He is conscious of his own sin and need of forgiveness. (v. 2)**
- **The enemy of his soul has pursued him and beaten him down.**
- **He feels entirely isolated from God and His favor.**
- **He is overwhelmed, disheartened.**

2. Use of All of the Means of Grace! vv. 5-6

(1) David engages heart and mind in the truth of God.

- **The activity of faith:** *"I remember... meditate... ponder"*

- **The focus of faith: God's great saving works of old** [N.T. Gospel!!]

- *"the days of old"*
- *"all that you have done"* NKJV: "all your works"
- *"the work of your hands"*

(2) He prays! He reaches out to God! *"I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul longs for You like a parched land."*

- **He longs for communion with God**

3. Plead for Abundant Grace! vv. 7-12

(1) David pleads for the tokens of God's favor toward him (7-8a)

- **That God would answer him speedily!** *"Answer me quickly, O LORD!
My spirit fails!"*

- **That God would assure him of His favor** *"Hide not your face from me...
Let me hear in the morning of your
steadfast love, for in you I trust."*

- **This he feels he needs more than any other blessing!**

(2) He pleads for the working of God's grace in him. (8b-11)

-1- To be enlightened in the knowledge of God's will

- *"Make me know the way in which I should go."*
- *"Teach me to do your will"*
- *"Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground"*

-2- To be quickened to do God's will *"For your name's sake, O LORD,
preserve my life."*

NKJV *"Revive me, O LORD, for Your name's sake."*

(3) He pleads for the working of God's providence on his behalf. (12)

NKJV: "In your mercy cut off my enemies;
And destroy all those who afflict my soul."

Further Application