

## Ps 5.8-9—A Prayer for Guidance

### David's Request, v.8

- I. *Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness*
  - A. He's looking to God to lead him in faithfulness, Isa 40.11.
  - B. He's asking that God would direct his steps and keep him in the way of peace, safety, truth, and holiness and in the way of inoffensive behavior, pure speech, and wise and godly living. What a great example of daily prayer!
- II. *Make your way straight before me*
  - A. He's either asking that God would clear the way before him so he can find it (Ps 119.105) or that God would level the way so that he can more easily walk in it (Ps 18.36).

### David's Reason, vv.8-9

- I. *Because of my enemies*
  - A. David didn't want to give his enemies an occasion against him, which would bring dishonor to the Lord.
  - B. These enemies were people of crooked speech with evil hearts bent on malice and mischief.
  - C. But he knew that if God led him, he'd be safe in their midst, from their mischief, and from their malice.

### David's Rationale

- I. David knew some things about God:
  - A. God was the all-wise God able to guide him; the faithful God who promised to guide him; and his loving God committed to guiding him.
- II. David also knew some things about himself:
  - A. He was neither able to see nor to hold a right and godly course without God as his guide because:
    1. He was naturally ignorant, Jer 10.23; he was naturally foolish, Ps 116.11; he was naturally sinful, Jer 17.9.
- III. We can't look to God for guidance unless we have a conviction of these truths regarding God and ourselves.
  - A. We need a conviction of who we are and who God is; of our emptiness and His fullness; of our need and His supply; and of our foolishness and His wisdom, Heb 11.6.

### Helps to seek the Lord's guidance

*We need guidance.* We're no more self-sufficient than we are self-existent. We depend entirely upon God to show, lead, and enable us to walk in right paths. But what exactly does this look like?

- I. Be encouraged by God's promises to guide you, Ps 25.8; 73.24; Isa 48.17; 49.10; 58.11.
- II. Learn from the way God guided Israel in the wilderness by the cloud, Num 10.11-36.
  - A. He leads in such a way that we never have cause to doubt His presence, but ever have cause to exercise our faith in Him. He leads us with our good and His glory in mind.
  - B. This is the happiest and safest life, Ps 4.8; 144.15.
- III. Beware of growing impatient with God, Ps 27.14; Rom 8.28.
  - A. We can grow impatient and want to move ahead of God and manipulate the circumstances to get the outcome we want (Ex 32.1); which only lengthens our wait (Ex 32.30; 34.28).
- IV. Consider that God uses 4 things to reveal His will to us:
  - A. His Law is a rule for our obedience, Dt 5.23.
  - B. His truth is an infallible rule of faith and practice, Ps 119.9, 105. We need to grow in the knowledge of our Bible.
  - C. Godly examples and mentors, 1Cor 11.1; Heb 13.7; Tit 2.7; Prov 16.31. We have a responsibility to seek out and attach ourselves to men and women whose lives emulate Christ and provoke us to greater godliness.
  - D. Biblical counsel, Prov 11.14; 12.15.
- V. Key principles to help discern godly conduct:
  - A. Is it lawful? Sin is never an option, 1Cor 6.9-11. Resolve to do *nothing* that needs an excuse or a disguise.
  - B. Is it beneficial? Will it lead me closer to Christ? 1Cor 6.12.
  - C. Is it enslaving? 1Cor 6.12. God has given us a spirit of self-discipline, 2Tim 1.7.
  - D. Is it consistent with Christ's Lordship over me? 1Cor 6.19-20.
  - E. Is it edifying to others, or would it lead others astray? Will it bring honor or dishonor to my church family? 1Cor 10.23-24.
  - F. Will it bring glory to God? 1Cor 10.31