

David's Instruction in Prayer *Psalm 5:1-12*

INTRO:

Many think the easiest thing for any believer to do is to pray. Actually, any of us who have walked with the Lord for any length of time can tell you that one of the most difficult things for us to do is to pray. We find ourselves crying out to the Lord like the disciples did in **Luke 11:1** *"Lord, teach us to pray."* David, the man after God's own heart, wrote **Psalm 5** to teach us how to pray.

In Psalm 5 we find David praying to his LORD. He does this in three parts.

I. He Prepared to Pray (v. 1-3)

II. He Remembered the God to Whom He Prays (4-7)

III. He Made His Request (8-12)

I. He Prepared to Pray (v. 1-3)

A. David begins his lesson in praying by pleading with God. (vs.1-2)

"Give ear to my words, O LORD, Consider my groaning. Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God, For to You I pray."

1. I was taught in Seminary that because God promised to answer our prayers we do not need to plead with Him. Someone should have told David and Daniel. Both of these saints were known to plead with God. Not because they doubted God would hear, but probably because they understood their basic unworthiness to even approach God.

2. One discipline we need to observe before we go rushing before the throne of Grace is to confess our sins and plead the forgiveness promised us in Christ.

B. Observe how David characterized his prayer. I used this translation because it clearly translates this Hebrew word, ***"Consider my groaning."*** David understood the principle Paul described for us in **Romans 8:26**.

"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

David understood sometimes we can't put our prayers into words. We can only groan in our hearts and the Holy Spirit of God groans with us. God can translate the pain of our hearts and answer. Aren't you glad we serve that kind of God?

C. David also arraigned his prayer before God. He thought about what he was going to ask from God and then offered it to Him. (v.3)

“In the morning, O LORD, You will hear my voice; In the morning I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch.”

David planned when he would pray and how he would pray and finally, he planned to trust God to answer. Sometimes we are like Nehemiah and utter “help me” prayers, but we should also have regular planned times of coming into the Lord’s fellowship and praying.

II. He Remembered the God to Whom He Prays (4-7)

A. Let me reach back to **verse 2** to see how David knew God as His Elohim and King.

“Heed the sound of my cry for help, my King and my God, For to You I pray.”

David prayed to God as His all-powerful God to Whom nothing was too difficult and to the One who deserved his complete loyalty and service.

B. David knew God as perfect in holiness and justice. **(vs.4-6)**

“For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil dwells with You. The boastful shall not stand before Your eyes; You hate all who do iniquity. You destroy those who speak falsehood; The LORD abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.”

This view of God we don’t like to dwell upon, God who absolutely hates sin and will judge it.

1. This is what Isaiah saw in **Isaiah 6**. Do you remember these verses? **(Isaiah 6:5)**

“So I said: “Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.”

We learn in John 12 that the Yahweh Isaiah saw was none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. As much as we do not like this vision, we do not get to choose what God is like. We also never understand grace until we comprehend the holiness of God.

C. David understood grace. **(v.7)**

“But as for me, by Your abundant lovingkindness I will enter Your house, At Your holy temple I will bow in reverence for You.”

He understood except the thrice holy God loved him and forgave him, he had no hope in God. When we pray we must understand our God is holy and does judge sin. We must come boldly to the throne of Grace through our great High Priest the Lord Jesus Christ who made provision for us.

III. He Made His Request (8-12)

A. David’s request was three-fold. First, David prayed, “Please lead me.” **(v.8)**

“O LORD, lead me in Your righteousness because of my foes; Make Your way straight before me.”

One commentator suggests this is somewhat like the Lord’s Prayer; **(Matthew 6:13)**

“And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

We should desire a holy life. We need to try to be as holy as we can with His help. Robert Murray M'cheyne prayed, “Lord make me as holy as a converted sinner can be.” That was David's desire also.

B. Second, David prayed, “Judge the evil ones.” (vs.9-10)

“There is nothing reliable in what they say; Their inward part is destruction itself. Their throat is an open grave; They flatter with their tongue. Hold them guilty, O God; By their own devices let them fall! In the multitude of their transgressions thrust them out, For they are rebellious against You.”

It is important we recognize that those who are evil and oppress others will not get away with their wicked deeds. In **Psalm 73:17-19**, the Psalmist was distraught because he forgot this truth.

“Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end. Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction. Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.”

C. Third, David prayed, “Surround Your righteous with favor.” (v.11-12)

“But let all who take refuge in You be glad, Let them ever sing for joy; And may You shelter them, That those who love Your name may exult in You. For it is You who blesses the righteous man, O LORD, You surround him with favor as with a shield.”

The wicked ones God judges, the believer, the one clothed in Christ's righteousness, God gives favor and grace. Do we sense our security in our Yahweh? Pray that God make it real to us.