

**Tuesday, April 4, 2023 ◻ Read Psalm 86:1–10**

*Questions from the Scripture text: Whose prayer was this (superscript)? What does v1a ask Yahweh to do? Why (v1b)? What request does he make (v2a)? With what argument? How does v2b summarize what it means to be holy? What does v2c ask for? What does he call himself? What does v3a ask for? Why (v3b)? What does v4a ask for? Why (v4b)? What summary argument does v5 make? What does v6 ask for? How does v7 describe his resolve to pray? How does v8 explain why he is praying? To what end are all nations/history proceeding (v9)? Why (v10)?*

**What sorts of arguments do the Lord's true people make in prayer?** Psalm 86:1–10 looks forward to the opening portion of morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these ten verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **when reasoning with God in prayer, the Lord's true people plead His own character, His own glory, and even their neediness upon the basis of His great mercy.**

When we consider the sorts of pleas and arguments that this Psalm teaches us to pray, we come amazed at the sort of God Who has made and saved us. Consider the following reasoning, and what it implies:

- I am poor and needy (God is One Who bows down His ear to such poor and needy ones)
- I am holy (God Who alone has inherent holiness has consecrated to Himself a people)
- I am Your servant (He has taken me into His service and cares about me as His own)
- I trust in You (He has offered Himself to be my hope and help)
- I cry to You all day long (God listens to our cries and cares)

The key request in the first half of the psalm is in v4: "Gladden the soul of Your servant, for to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul." It is at this point that vv5–10 take their encouragement from the character of God. Sometimes we hear the sick sort of reasoning that says "powerful" praying is prayer that comes with "great belief." This is not compatible with biblical thought. Our faith is weak and small, and even what we have comes as a gift. "Powerful" praying is prayer that sets whatever weak believing it has upon a great God! A great God Who has shown His character most of all at the cross (cp. 85:9–10).

- You are good
- You are ready to forgive
- You are abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You
- You will answer me
- There is none like You, O Lord (God distinguishes Himself as the true God by hearing prayer!)
- There are no works like Your works (God glorifies Himself by doing what is impossible to all others!)
- You have made all nations; they shall come, worship, and glorify You (God does all things for His glory!)
- You are great and do wonderful things
- You alone are God

Here is the key to powerful praying for any believer in any situation: prayer's effectiveness is bound up not in the one who prays but in the One to Whom he prays. Even when we don't have the presence of mind to reason like this, we can still be poor and needy before Him; we can still cry to Him all day long. The reality is true, even when we lack the presence of mind to state it. To this He also adds Psalms like this to give us that presence of mind. How merciful is our God!

What situations have brought you to a low place like the one from which David prayed this Psalm? What can you pray in such a low estate? What hope do you have that it will be effective.

*Sample prayer: Lord, You are good and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You. There is none like You, O Lord, nor are there any works like Your works. All nations whom You have made shall come and worship before You, O Lord, and shall glorify Your Name. You are great and do wondrous things. Grant Your Spirit's help that we may glorify You in Jesus Christ, AMEN!*

**Suggested songs: ARP86A "Listen and Answer" or TPH214 "Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above"**

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Psalm 86 one through 10. These are God's words. A prayer of david. Bow down your ear. Oh yeah. Hear me for. I am poor and needy. Preserve my life for. I'm holy, you are my god. Save your servant, who trusts in you? The merciful to me. Oh lord. Or i cry to you all day long.

Rejoice, the soul of your servant. For to you o. Lord, i lift up my soul. For you, lord are good. And ready to forgive. And abundant and mercy. To all those who call upon you. Give a hero. You all way to my prayer and attend to the voice of my supplications in the day of my trouble.

I will call upon you for you will answer me. Among the gods there is none. Like you o. Lord. Nor are there, any works like your works? All nations whom you have made, so common worship before you o lord. And so glorify your name. For you are great and do understand things.

You alone, our god. So far the reading of god's inspired and inherentworth. And this psalm the lord teaches us to pray. Very much like we think about another places and especially Matthew 6, for instance, What is often called the lord's prayer? But was really the The, the form that the lord gave as an example to the disciples to pray, they'd heard the lord's prayer.

When we have it in the gospel of luke, they hear him praying. And they say, oh, teach us to pray like you do. And that's the point at which he teaches. Then He probably taught them many times. But here in the sermon, on the mountain, matthew 6, You have the lord's prayer.

Which is not what they heard him praying. About how he taught them. To pray as he did. But here the lord teaches us. How to pray? We don't even know yet.

What trouble it is that? David is in in verse 7. He just says in the day of my trouble and it applies to all his troubles, We're going to hear about this particular trouble later.

In verse 14, a mob of violent men have sought my life. The proud of risen against me. Well, and so forth. But he opens by giving us. And versus one through four. Reasons in himself. To plead before god in prayer. And reasons in god. To plead before God in prayer.

So, when we come to god and we pray, and we're in trouble, crying out to him, we want him to help us How? Should we plead with god? How should we wrestle with him? We're interacting with him. And, We are presenting our case crying out. Well, the things that he says about himself are I am poor and needy verse 1.

I am holy verse 2. I cry to you verse 3. I lift up my soul to you. Verse 4. And so, it's Not anything good enough. Although the i am holy sounds like it might be. We'll see there in a minute. But it's our neediness. And god's mercy to the needy.

That is the first thing that we see when we pray to god. Crying up to him. We want him to hear us. And we, We want to. Pray in an effective way. I want to plead in a way that he teaches us to plead because we don't know how to make rare effective.

We are just breathing dirt. After all, who not only that but have sinned in our first father, adam, And so here, Bow down your ear. Oh, you always hear me for. I am poor and needy in the first place. And we learn here that god has mercy on those who are poor and who are needing and who recognize it they are.

They are those. Who mourn? Who are poor in spirit, they recognize their poverty. So, not only does the lord have pity on those who are needy but especially those who perceive their own neediness, And perceive his compassion and to his desire to help. Us in our need and his power, his ability.

To help us in our need. So, that's one thing that you can always plead with god and prayer because you are poor and needing. And if you don't see that you are, then you can ask him for help with that. Because it is a spiritual poverty to consider oneself.

Spiritually, rich. You can say, lord, i don't feel my poverty. Like i said, i don't feel my neediness like i should but your word says, i am so help. My foolish unfeeling proud heart. To feel its neediness before you truly you're the one who pities those who are need and those who are poor.

You're always poor and needy before god. So, there's always something you can bring to them, that's something you can always bring to preserve my life for i am. Holy, And yes, this might come out. And holiness of love for god and holiness, therefore, of obedience to his commandments, but the holiness of love for him and obedience to him, come from him.

He continues explaining what a holy person is by saying you are my god. Save your servant who trusts in you. And that's not saying i serve you so. Well, god, he's saying i am lowly, i'm not a great one. I'm not a high one. I'm not a noble one.

I'm a lonely one. I'm a servant one. My hope is in you. I belong to you. You are the master and i am the servant. You are the master on the slave. You are the noble one. And i, and your subject, you were my king. And yet. If god is my master, if god is my lord, if god is my king, that's because he has taken me for himself.

He has sent me apart. He has made me in that way consecrated to himself. That's where holiness comes from and it's when god does that we come to love him that we come to obey him similar to in roman's age, 28. When it says, we know that all things work together for the good of those who love God.

And i say, all, all they must be earning the good that all things work together for by loving god. No. Because the next phrase tells us how they came to love, god. Those who have been called according to his purpose. See that in start out, just lovers of god, they started out as haters of god, lovers of themselves, lovers of sin.

But they came to be lovers of god because god called them. And how great is this? Love of god, that calls sinners to himself. And makes them into lovers of god. And if he's done that already, then we know that he's working all things together for good. Well, that's how verse 2 works.

Oh I've been set apart to you even though i am lowly. I am a servant. I am a A humble lowly person, but A humiliated. If we use it that way, watch out for the word, humble, let's we think of it in terms of spiritual pride. I am a lowly person.

But you are my master. You are my god, all my trust is in you. That's what a holy person is. Not someone who is above or better than others, but someone who has been joined to god. Who has been set apart to him? So, We see that we are needy but god has pity on those who are needy.

We are lowly, but he's taken us to be out. His own. And given himself to be our master. And then the third thing, i'm not just poor and needy and not just holy set apart to god by himself by his mercy. But i cry to you all day long.

The the idea of being here, there's nothing that he can do for himself. Be merciful to me. Oh lord. He has mercy to those who have no other help. They cry to him all day long. Describing the greatness of their need. But also their desperation. I cry to you all day long.

Is not just. Neediness for desperation and pain and agony. The Lord has mercy. On such. He has mercy in himself, we have the need of mercy, you know. And then the last thing for us to plead in prayer so we're pleading god's pity. We're pleading. God's willingness to take those who are lowly and unholy and to redeem them.

Give Bring them to be his very own. We're pleading. God's having everything good in him. Even though we have nothing good in us giving his goodness to us and that condition is mercy. And then the fourth place To you. O. Lord, i lift up my soul. This is rejoice, the soul of your servant for you.

Oh lord. I lift up my soul. We were created for him. The beasts have animating spirit in them. But they're not made forgot. They don't rejoice in the creator. The, the The pleasure that they have is an animal pleasure. In only created things. Like food and safety, and even play.

And so forth, but they don't know their maker. They don't have any eternal soul to delight in god or even to be self-aware. No, no. Beast ever asks why am i and why am i so unfulfilled? We call it instinct, but instinct is another way of saying Their pleasure is in the created things, not the creator.

So, When we say rejoice the soul of your servant for to you. Oh lord. I lift up my soul we're saying. I exist, forgot. And i have found that i cannot have joy in any of the created things. I need him. I need you. And we come to the lord often in trouble realizing that a big part of the trouble.

Is. By rejoicing in other things and not or by failing to have our joy in him. It doesn't matter what else we have. We are unfulfilled. And so, our entire neediness of him, and our entire lowliness. Lowliness I o w l. I n e. S s. But then in verses 5 through 10.

We also plead based on things in god and considering who we are and who he is. When we were describing ourselves the reasons from us, it versus one through four. It was already to some extent, depleting, who he is. But now he turns to and dwells more directly upon God's own character.

Oh lord, you are good. Oh, lord, you already to forgive. So he is good. He designed good. He does good. The likes to do good and he's ready to forgive. So he don't come saying i am good. We come saying, not only are you good, but you have shown, you have shown by the promise of the christ you have shown by the sacrifices.

It would be for, for david of the atonement that is being made for scent. You have shown that you are ready to forget and How much more we can say that? Because we don't have sacrifices to point forward to Christ. We have christ's once for all sacrifice. How can anyone doubt that god is ready to forgive sin?

And yet, so great as our wickedness, that That. Many here of the forgiveness that god has provided in christ. And They either don't believe about god that he's ready to forgive or they don't believe that they need forgiveness. They see the sacrifice of jesus and they still deny The how horrible their sin is, and how big their guilt is even though, christ died for sinners, Or.

They, they see that they need forgiveness but they're still trying to do something to get it for themselves. Rather than seeing that god is ready to forgive god, provided the attendant god has provided the righteousness. Oh, but god is ready to forgive? And we can look at the cross of jesus, christ and see how ready he is to forgive, how great is what he is done for for our forgiveness, how he offers that to us.

Oh lord. You lord are good and ready to forgive and abundant in mercy and infinite supply of steadfast love of covenant law. To all those who call upon you. I'm not just the, the best and the nearest and furthest along than faith and most mature and having grown in grace.

But to the sinner in the first moment with with the first breaths of spiritual life in that he has ever breathed, just having been given life by god's spirit, just having started to see his and just having started to see christ and resting on the lord, jesus christ by faith.

From the lowest to the greatest. God is abundant infinite. Then confident love instead. Fast love And so, you may be the worst christian that ever was, but If you are a christian, if you are hoping in christ alone, if the only hope of your life as i am his and he is mine and he loves me.

And he is the one who's given me to love him. I don't love him. Like i said, i wish i loved him more but i love him. If you are, The smallest. Or worst of the questions. He's abundant instead fast love infinite supply of steadfast love or as New King.

James has it here? Abundant in mercy to you. Because that's to all those who no one who calls upon. The name of the lord. Will be put to shame everyone. Who believes in him, everyone who calls upon him. We'll be saved. And so we have God's goodness. God's readiness to forgive god's.

Infinite supply of covenant love. God's. The answering hearing and answering prayer, give ear. Oh y'all way to my prayer attend to the voice of my supplications. In the day of my trouble, i will call upon you for And the reason he's praying to god, the reason he has hope to call upon The lord is for, you will answer me.

Like, I think it's some 65. Praise waits for you and zion. Oh god. To use the vows shall be performed. You who hear prayer? God is the one who hears and answers prayer. So, we don't We don't pray. To idols. Idols can't even hear us. We don't pray to people with prayers and active worship.

It's ridiculous to pray to people who can't hear you. It's idolatrous blasphemous treating them as if they were god and even if they could hear, they can't answer you. That's why when we ask one another, to pray for us, we're not praying to one another to pray for us.

We're saying there's one who can always hear us and one who has infinite power in himself, from which to answer, his wisdom is perfect, who's love is bottomless and topless insideless, right? The height and width and length and depth of the love of god, that we need the power of god just to start perceiving in the The apostle prays for the Ephesians to be able to perceive the love of god.

And And we say, i will call upon you for you will answer me. He's recognizing that god is glorified as the hearer of prayer and the answer are of prayer. And that's why we don't pray to anyone else but that's why we do pray to him. Because he hears, he answers.

So, all these wonderful reasons in god himself, He is good and he is ready to forgive. Oh, he is more ready to forgive than we are to be forgiven? The lord help us. That we would call. When we we pray to him in our trouble. He's abundant in mercy.

Infinite supply of his steadfast love is the hearer and answer of prayer versus six and seven. He is the only lord among the gods. There is none like you. Oh lord of course there's not all the others are the inventions fabrications of men. The the In positions. Impersonations of demons.

We learn about in first Corinthians 10, like ashera, and asteroth and ishtar. And estaray. All of all all their names of that hideous demon. That we know. Or don't know, but use the name Easter. The lord have mercy on his church. There's no golf among the gods. There's none like you.

Oh, lord. Because there's only one true and living god. There's only one infinite eternal and changeable god, the triune god, father, son, and holy spirit, who from everlasting to everlasting is one god and three persons. And so he reveals his uniqueness especially although you can see The triune nature of god, if you pay careful attention in the Old Testament, but he emphasizes over and over again.

You always, your god. Yahweh is one And there are there are no other gods at all. But he waits to fully display to most clearly and explicitly and unfold to us Historian nature when he sends the sun. That in god, the sun, the glory of the triune god, and the glory of his triuminess would be displayed in the lord.

Jesus teaches us, not just about god. Now, as our father and himself as god, our savior who has come to save us as the sun, but even God, the spirit, the other helper, whom he will send the spirit of god, who loves us. And Yeah, and there is the one got And so we come and we pray to him and we say you show

yourself, god.

By hearing my prayer, there's no one else to pray to I pray to you because in order to show that there's no one else to pray to nor are there any works like your works? Apply because god alone is the one who works by his own power. Everyone else.

Everything else in all creation has to be upheld constantly by him. He is the one whose works come from infinite wisdom and infinite power. Inherent ability within himself. He's not just the uncreated creator. He is the unsustainable sustainer. And so we come. And we're praying to the one who holds together every every subatomic particle.

Of every Every particle of every atom of every molecule of every thing. Not just the, the particles but The waves and the energy, and we have such small knowledge. Yeah, just yesterday and human history. Basically, we discovered light as a particle and a wave. We're still trying to figure that out.

And hit all of it has held together sustained over supervise superintendent by god. Because whatever any other creature does. Their works are not like god's works. And so we come to him and then we think not, just of of the, the gods, quote unquote, and the creatures. But now specifically, the nations and verse 9, all nations whom you have made So, common worship before you will lord So we may not know all the details of what god is doing along the way, but we know how it ends He didn't make nations just so that they could spin off and be destroyed.

He has created nations. Because from every one of those nations, He has redeeming for himself, those who will be his adopted children in christ jesus. Since that's what he promised to abraham from or abram the first time in the mid, the promise abraham didn't have that name yet. That isn't this?

What he promised Abram? That he would save. From all the nations. In in jesus christ. And so we know what it where it's all going, it's going to the worship of god, the glory of god, And, We will all. Have all of the redeemed from all of the nations will say with verse 10.

You. Oh, god are great. You oh god, to wondrous things. You alone. Our god. And so yes, when we talk about ourselves and In prayer, we plead Our pityousness. Because he has pity. Upon us. And our only hope is that he has ready to forgive and he's taking sinners to be his own, he gathers and to himself to himself in In the lord, jesus christ, he created us for himself.

He made us with eternal souls and he redeems us for himself. He's ready to forgive. This is, this is our hope and so we come and we plead these things about ourselves. I was made for you. I'm not like i was made to be, but you are ready to forgive.

You are making You are redeeming the people and he's doing so for his glory. And how wonderful and prayer when we. When we are shifting as the shift comes in verse 5 here, in our passage. When we turn to who he is. And that really that fills up the prayer, doesn't it?

If you start to dwell on, Who he is and what he is like and where everything is going. Unto his glory. We don't even know yet, do we? By verse 10 of the psalm, what the situation is. You have to wait until verse 14 to get there. But we do know how to plead.

Because of to whom, It is that we are pleading. The lord's teach us to pray that way. Let's pray.

Our father in heaven, we ask. That you would give us a right view of ourselves. So that we wouldn't, How come and pride or idolatry? But we pray. Even more that you would give us a right view of yourself. So that we would always be coming in confidence and joy.

And wonder and worship at who you are. And that this would be. How we learn from your own words to plead with you in prayer. And that this would be. From where you give us to have our confidence. As we pray to you. Who bless your name? That all of these things about you that we've Been hearing from your word are true.

And we pray that your spirit would write. The this portion of your word on our hearts, That we would know of a certainty that we would know of a reality. That this is. The god who made us? That this you are the god who Redeemed us for yourself in christ.

That you whom we read about and think about are the one whom we address who is listening to us. When we pray Who overrule all things? For your glory and are doing so for our good because you've saved us and are saving us And we'll finish saving us. And so, we thank you and we bless your name for that.

Then jesus name. Amen.