

Hear me! Teach me! Help me!
A PRAYER OF THE PERSECUTED
Psalm 86

Let's look and learn from how the persecuted prayed.

I. HEAR ME! (1-10)

A. HEAR MY POSITION (1-4)

1. The Report: David is ...
 - a. Troubled (1)
 - b. Godly (2a)
 - c. Trusting (2a)
 - d. Pleading (3-4)
2. The Reality: David is conflicted > Torn between pressure and piety

B. HEAR MY PRAYER (1-6)

1. David's Condition
 - a. Needing answers (1)
 - b. Desiring preservation (2a)
 - c. Seeking salvation (2b)
 - d. Wanting graciousness (3)
 - e. Craving gladness (4)
 - f. Requesting attention (6)
2. David's Repetition
 - "Though similar prayer requests, they are helpful by compelling the mind to express itself in varied forms." [S. Conway, Psalms-Vol II in Pulpit Commentary series, p. 214]

C. HEAR MY PRAISE (5-10)

- Note: Amid his peril David does not neglect praise
1. God's Actions (5, 7)
 - a. Good (5a)
 - b. Forgiving (5b)
 - c. Loyal (5c)
 - d. Engaged (7)
 2. God's Attributes (8-10)
 - a. Unique (8) > Superior in worth and works
 - b. Worthy (9) > To receive all nation's worship and glory
 - c. Great (10) > Doing miraculous things that only He can do

Over please >

II. **TEACH ME!** (11-13)

- Although perplexed and distressed, I need to learn!

A. INSTRUCT ME: I need Your thoughts (11a)

- I will practice what You prescribe

B. INSPIRE ME: I need to focus (11b-13)

1. The Request (11b)

- A supreme affection and single aim

2. The Reality (11b)

- Sometimes our hearts are divided

3. The Resolve (12)

a. Giving thanks sincerely

b. Glorifying forever

4. The Reasons (13)

a. Your steadfastness toward me

b. Your deliverance of me

III. **HELP ME!** (14-17)

A. MY ATTACKERS (14)

- Fiercely arrogant, violent and godless

B. MY ADONAI (15)

- Faithfully merciful, gracious, patient and favorable

C. MY APPEAL (16)

1. Turn to me

2. Be gracious to me

3. Strengthen me

4. Save me: This is the first time David states a particular request ... after 15 verses of prayer and praise were first given.

D. MY ASSURANCE (17)

1. Encourage me: Show me a sign for good

- To request these is not wrong. To require them would be.

2. Embarrass them

- They are shamed when they see God's provision and protection

CONCLUSION

The persecuted do well when they focus on their God and not the godless.

- Might God give us the grace to do the same in the midst of our trials.

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