

Psalm 86

Introduction:

Psalm 86:title (ESV) A PRAYER OF DAVID.

Psalm 86:15 (ESV) But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

I. The Psalmist seeks the Lord's help through prayer

A. The Psalmist beseeches the Lord to be attentive to his prayer.

Psalm 86:1 (ESV) **Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me**, for I am poor and needy.

B. The Psalmist seeks the Lord's help because he is insufficient to meet his own needs.

Psalm 86:1 (ESV) Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me, **for I am poor and needy**.

1. The word "poor" here means to be depressed. It is to be affected in both mind and body due to one's circumstances.

2. "Needy" is to be without resources.

II. The Psalmist seeks the Lord's help based on his personal relationship to the Lord.

A. The Psalmist has been set apart by God.

Psalm 86:2 (ESV) Preserve my life, **for I am godly**; save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God.

The idea here is not sinless or perfect. Rather, the Psalmist is set aside or consecrated unto the Lord.

B. The Psalmist has been set aside to do the Lord's work.

Psalm 86:2 (ESV) Preserve my life, for I am godly; **save your servant**, who trusts in you—you are my God.

1. The Psalmist is expressing his whole confidence in God.

Psalm 86:2 (ESV) Preserve my life, for I am godly; save your servant, **who trusts in you—you** are my God.

2. The Psalmist has a covenantal relationship to God.

Psalm 86:2 (ESV) Preserve my life, for I am godly; save your servant, who trusts in **you—you are my God**.

III. The Psalmist is seeking the Lord's deliverance.

A. The Psalmist asks God to guard his life.

Psalm 86:2 (ESV) **Preserve** my life, for I am godly; save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God.

B. The Psalmist is seeking deliverance in the largest and broadest sense.

Psalm 86:2 (ESV) Preserve my life, for I am godly; **save** your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God.

C. The Psalmist asks God to make him cheerful, and joyous once again.

Psalm 86:4 (ESV) **Gladden** the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

IV. The Psalmist is very much aware that he is in need of God's unmerited favor.

Psalm 86:3 (ESV) Be **gracious** to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all the day.

Psalm 86:6 (ESV) Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer; **listen to my plea for grace**.

Psalm 86:16 (ESV) Turn to me and **be gracious to me**; give your strength to your servant, and save the son of your maidservant.

V. The Psalmist emphasizes that his appeal is to God and God alone.

Psalm 86:4 (ESV) Gladden the soul of your servant, **for to you, O Lord, do I lift up my soul**.

VI. The reasons that the Psalmist trusts in God.

Psalm 86:5 (ESV) **For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving**, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

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Psalm 86:7 (ESV) In the day of my trouble **I call upon you, for you answer me.**

Psalm 86:8 (ESV) **There is none like you among the gods,** O Lord, nor are there any works like yours.

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VII. The nations will eventually come to worship God.

Psalm 86:9 (ESV) All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.

Psalm 86:10 (ESV) **For you are great and do wondrous things;** you alone are God.

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VIII. The Psalmist prays for spiritual renewal in his own life.

Psalm 86:11 (ESV) **Teach me your way, O LORD,** that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.

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IX. The Psalmist thanks the Lord for the Lord's love towards him.

Psalm 86:12 (ESV) I give thanks to you, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever.

Psalm 86:13 (ESV) **For great is your steadfast love toward me; you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.**

X. God is so different from those around us.

A. The Psalmist describes his oppressors.

1. His oppressors are arrogant and self-reliant.

Psalm 86:14 (ESV) O God, **insolent** men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seeks my life, and they do not set you before them.

2. They are violent being devoid of any mercy or compassion.

Psalm 86:14 (ESV) O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of **ruthless men** seeks my life, and they do not set you before them.

3. They do not take God into account.

Psalm 86:14 (ESV) O God, insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seeks my life, and **they do not set you before them**

- B. God is so unlike David's oppressors.

Psalm 86:15 (ESV) **But you, O Lord**, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.

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- XI. David offers a final plea for help.

Psalm 86:16 (ESV) Turn to me and be gracious to me; give your strength to your servant, and save the son of your maidservant.

Psalm 86:17 (ESV) Show me a sign of your favor, that those who hate me may see and be put to shame **because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me**.

- XII. Conclusion: