

I WILL CALL UPON THE LORD!

PSALM 86

This Psalm is rich in its lessons on prayer. Seven times in the Psalm he addresses or refers to God as the Sovereign Lord—Adonai. He also addresses Him as Elohim and Yahweh. He is the One with Eternal Power and the One who makes and keeps covenant with His people.

The Psalmist really talks to God more about God than he does about himself. Can we learn something about prayer from this?

I. THE BASIS FOR PRAYER.

1. A deep sense of need and helplessness.

“For I am poor and needy.”

2. A devotion to the Lord.

“For I am holy.”

3. A trust in the Lord.

“Save your servant who trusts in you.”

4. A continual calling upon the Lord.

“For I cry to you all day long.”

5. A assuring knowledge of God.

“For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all who call upon you.”

II. THE OCCASION FOR PRAYER.

1. A day of trouble.

“In the day of my trouble I will call upon you.”

2. A day of opposition.

“O God, the proud have risen against me, and a mob of violent men have sought my life.”

3. A day of revelation.

“Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in your truth; Unite my heart to fear your name.”

III. THE SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER.

1. Preservation of life.

“Preserve my life.”

2. Joy in life.

“Rejoice the soul of your servant.”

3. Instruction for life.

“Teach me Your way, O Lord.”

4. Unification of life.

“Unite my heart to fear Your name.”

5. Strength for life.

“Give Your strength to Your servant.”