

PSALMS 6

{1} O LORD, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath.

Our prayer should never be “Lord, rebuke me not.” The child of God needs correction and rebuke because of the error of our ways. God is fashioning us after the likeness of Jesus and it is by His chastisements and rebukes this transformation is accomplished. Our prayer must be that we will not be so stubborn and rebellious that we go to the point that God’s anger is kindled against us. The child who readily accepts and appreciates correction brings joy to the heart of his parents. Those who do not accept discipline bring sorrow to his parents and to himself. (Cross References: Pr 3:11; 1Cor 11:31-32; Heb 12:5-11)

PRAYER: Lord, help me to see that all that happens in my life is being used by You to transform me into the likeness of Christ Jesus. I pray that I will not resent discipline but embrace it as Your means of helping me grow spiritually.

{2} Be merciful to me, LORD, for I am faint; O LORD, heal me, for my bones are in agony. {3} My soul is in anguish. How long, O LORD, how long?

Our appeal to God should always be for His mercy. Even in times of our greatest strength we are still weak compared to the might of God. When we are beset with troubles and sickness we feel it in the depths of our physical being (bones) and in our emotions, mental capabilities and even our wills (soul).

We need the hope of “light at the end of the tunnel” when the trouble will subside and we can be at rest. When troubles come through our lives like a parade of horrors we certainly are prone to wonder, “When will this ever end?” David returned to this question in Chapter 13 of Psalms where he asks “how long” four times in the first two verses. Some commentators have noted that David was so overwhelmed with his problems that he did not finish the thought regarding “how long.” What did David want to happen? We see the answer to that in the next verse.

{4} Turn, O LORD, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love.

In Exodus 32:12 we read the words of Moses to God: “Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.” We see similar words in Psalms 85:3 “Thou hast taken away all thy wrath: thou hast turned thyself from the fierceness of thine anger.” Since the subject of this Psalm is related to the anger of God that is provoked by continued disobedience, then we see that David is asking God to give him some relief. The basis of this appeal is not by any merit of David but is strictly the mercy and loving kindness that is the nature and character of God.

PRAYER: Father, we see in Your word that even Jesus learned obedience from the things He suffered. Help us to also learn from what we experience in life so that we are also beloved children in whom You are pleased. Lord, while we would welcome relief from the problems we have, we ask that we can learn quickly the lesson in life you want to know.

{5} No one remembers you when he is dead. Who praises you from the grave ?

Unless we live until Jesus comes back (or unless we are as Enoch or Elijah) then we shall all experience death. If our lives have been spent in praising and glorifying God (which Augustine

said is the purpose of man), then to request that we might live a little longer to praise God among the living is valid. Knowing the inevitability of death, then we should endeavor to praise God now while we still have breath.

This verse should **not** be interpreted to mean that the soul sleeps when the body dies. There is ample supporting scriptures to indicate that the souls of the saved are ever before the throne of God and serve Him day and night. Paul said, “To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.” The implication here is that if we are dead, then we cannot give praise among men and give witness to His goodness. While this is true from a “present and active” sense, we still can give “absent and active” witness to God’s goodness even when we are dead. People can begin ministries which glorify God long after they have departed this life. One could set up an endowment to further the Kingdom of God even after they are gone. Even David continues to give praise to God through the Psalms he wrote.

PRAYER: Lord, we recognize that our time on earth is brief, help us to make the most of life so that all we do is directed to fulfilling our purpose for which You created us. Let our praise come from a pure heart that is in tune with Your heart and let our very lives be to the praise of Your glory.

{6}I am worn out from groaning; all night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears. {7}My eyes grow weak with sorrow; they fail because of all my foes.

Groaning and crying because of our own condition saps our strength and makes us even more vulnerable to the enemy. When we have a spirit of heaviness, then we need to put on the garment of praise (Isa 61:3). We do not need to wallow in our circumstances. Typically, when we have troubles, they are a result of one of three reasons:

- (1) Disobedience to the commands of God or rebelliousness in refusing to follow His leading.
- (2) Oppression from enemy of our souls because we walking in paths of righteousness.
- (3) Trials and testing that God has allowed to help us grow in our walk and become more like Jesus.

If our affliction is because of our sin, then we must repent and seek the face and will of God at once. If the problem is oppression of the enemy, there we need to claim the promises that God has given us authority over the dominions of darkness. We are told to rebuke the devil and he will flee from us. Finally, if the problems are a result of being given an opportunity to grow in the Lord, then we need to count ourselves as blessed and turn our complaints into praise.

PRAYER: Help me, O Lord, to always praise You and not complain to You. Help me to see that groaning causes us to sink further into the pit of despair, but praise lifts us up. Help us to know that You inhabit the praises of Your people and that we can draw near to You in praise. In times of afflictions help me to see the source of the problem and know the proper response.

{8}Away from me, all you who do evil, for the LORD has heard my weeping. {9}The LORD has heard my cry for mercy; the LORD accepts my prayer. {10}All my enemies will be ashamed and dismayed; they will turn back in sudden disgrace.

The situation for David changed when he rebuked those who do evil (“away from me”).

His authority to issue such a rebuke was given by God who heard his weeping and his cry for mercy.

Do we have the confidence to know that God has heard our prayers and our cries for mercy. If we know that God hears and that He is utterly able to do all that is needed on our behalf, then we can have the courage and the energy to move on in doing what He has called us to do in life.

PRAYER: Thank You, Father, for hearing my cry for mercy, thank You for Your wonderful grace. Thank You for giving us the victory over the evil one and that by the authority of Your Son and the power of Your Spirit we can live life in a way that pleases You.