

MOUNT SINAI MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Psalm 28

Rejoicing in Answered Prayer

Quote

“Never was a faithful prayer lost. Some prayers have a longer voyage than others, but then they return with their richer lading at last, so that the praying soul is a gainer by waiting for an answer.”

William Gurnall

I. Introduction

One of the most exhilarating aspects of the Christian life is the dynamic of answered prayer. A direct cause and effect exists between prayer offered on earth and the answer given in heaven. A life of **faith** lives with the anticipation that God will answer prayer according to his perfect will. Faith believes that God will act in his perfect way.

In this psalm David was endangered by treacherous men (vv. 3–4) who sought to destroy God’s work (v. 5). Once again he turned to the Lord, pleading for his divine **judgment** on the ungodly who showed no regard for God’s work. As David waited on God to act, he was concerned that he not share in that **judgment** but that

God would set him apart from the wicked. In this dark hour God remained David’s strength, his shield from all harm, and the shepherd of his soul, protecting and providing for him.

This is another psalm “of David,” the third companion psalm of a trio, Psalms 26 and 27 being the other two, which centers around God’s house and “the Most Holy Place” (v. 2).

II. Commentary

MAIN IDEA

David asks the Lord to deliver him from **evil** men and praises God for hearing his prayer.

A David's Plea (28:1–2)

28:1–2. David pleaded, To you I call, O Lord, my Rock. The Lord was his security. Do not turn a deaf ear to me, he prayed. If God was silent, giving the appearance that he did not hear his urgent pleas, he would be like those who had gone **down to the pit** (Heb. *pada*), a metaphor for death. In other words, if God failed to answer his prayer, David reasoned, his life would be no different from unbelievers who lived and died without divine deliverance. David's dependence on God is symbolized by his uplifted hands, indicating his reaching out toward the Most Holy Place. This Holy Place was the innermost part of the tabernacle that housed the ark of the **covenant**, the symbol of God's presence. David desperately needed God's help!

B David's Petition (28:3–5)

28:3. More specifically, David asked God not to drag him away with the wicked in **judgment**. Those who did **evil** deserved divine punishment because, although they spoke **cordially with their neighbors**, giving the appearance of outward godliness, they actually harbored **malice in their hearts**. Thus, he asked not to be judged with hypocritical sinners.

28:4–5. Pleading for divine justice, David petitioned God, **Repay them for their deeds** which are **evil**. This was a sober imprecation calling for divine wrath exercised on his behalf. He asked God to bring upon them what they deserved—severe **judgment**. So vile were their works that they showed no **regard for the works of the Lord**. Those who destroy God's works will certainly be destroyed.

C David's Praise (28:6–9)

28:6–7. Suddenly David's mood shifted from deepest concern to highest celebration without his circumstances changing. Believing that God would do right, he anticipated God's vindication. This dramatic difference in David occurred as he realized that God had **heard his cry for mercy**. **Praise be to the Lord**, he exulted, whom his **heart trusts**. The Lord was his strength. He enabled him to endure throughout this crisis. Likewise, God was his **shield**, protecting him from

the assaults of his enemies. His **heart** leaped with **joy** as he gave **thanks** to God for this help.

28:8. God is **the strength** of all **his people** who trust him, empowering them to persevere through every trial. Similarly, God is **a fortress of salvation for his anointed one**. This is a reference by David to his royal position as the **anointed king** of Israel. God is the one who saves the king.

28:9. David concluded this psalm by offering a personal **intercession** on behalf of the entire nation. **Save your people** from all their enemies, he pleaded, **and bless your inheritance**, another reference to God's **people** (cp. Deut. 4:20; 1 Kgs. 8:51). He further appealed to God, **their shepherd** (cp. Ps. 23:1; Mic. 5:4; 7:14), to **carry them forever** like a shepherd would carry his sheep.

III. Conclusion

The Lord is sufficient for the believer in every circumstance of life, even the most difficult **trials**. He helps his own with the fullness of his sustaining **grace**. When believers feel they are so weak that they can advance no further in God's will, the Lord is an ever-present Shepherd who carries forward even the weakest of his sheep, saving them from harm. Let the redeemed call on God. He will not turn a deaf ear to them. Let them not remain silent toward God because one's strength is shown in God's powerful actions on behalf of his weak ones (2 Cor. 12:9).¹

¹ Steven Lawson, [*Psalms 1–75*](#), ed. Max Anders, vol. 11, Holman Old Testament Commentary (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2004), 152–155.