

Psalms Chapter 17 Commentary

A Prayer of David.

Ps 17:1 "Hear the right, O LORD, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips."

King David is telling us that I am not praying a Pharisaical prayer. I am praying out of the depths of my depravity, and the knowledge, of my need of God's presence in my life. So should our prayers be.

2 "Let my sentence come forth from thy presence; let thine eyes behold the things that are equal. 3 Thou hast proved mine heart; thou hast visited me in the night; thou hast tried me, and shalt find nothing; I am purposed that my mouth shall not transgress."

King David confesses: God has visited him in the night and has assured him, that his eternal salvation is sure. Wherefore, let me here the sentence of thy judgment that my sins are eternally forgiven. David also proclaims to God: the intent of his heart is to not transgress against God. Every child of God should be able to pray such a prayer and make such confession unto God. Why? Because of the surety, of our eternal salvation, in the finished work of Jesus Christ.

4 "Concerning the works of men, by the word of thy lips I have kept me from the paths of the destroyer. 5 Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not. 6 I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech. 7 Shew thy marvellous lovingkindness, O thou that savest by thy right hand them which put their trust in thee from those that rise up against them. 8 ¶ Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings, 9 From the wicked that oppress me, from my deadly enemies, who compass me about."

David tells us: because God has indwelt me with the Holy Spirit, thy word of truth (*the word of thy lips*) rightly applied, has kept me from the paths of eternal destruction. Continue to uphold my walks, and talks, as I sojourn among this wicked generation. This is why we study the bible: that the (*the word of thy lips*,) through the Holy Spirit power, will keep us on the path of righteousness, and off the paths of eternal destruction.

David continues praying believing God will hear his fervent, effectual, prayer of faith. He asks God to pour out thy lovingkindness upon me, and upon all those who trust in your word, and work, of eternal salvation. David asks to be kept as the apple of God's eye and to keep him safe under the shadow of God's wings, from his oppressors. Do we not all desire these same privileges and honor from God?

9 "From the wicked that oppress me, from my deadly enemies, who compass me about. 10 They are inclosed in their own fat: with their mouth they speak proudly. 11 They have now compassed us in our steps: they have set their eyes bowing down to the earth; 12 Like as a lion that is greedy of his prey, and as it were a young lion lurking in secret places."

David tells God that these oppressors are bloated with the fatness of their self-works, and they speak proud things against God. They only have an earthly view "**they have set their eyes bowing down to the earth;**" and do not look heavenward, nor do they understand heavenly things. They gather around thy people as lions over their prey. They hide in secret to do their mischief. Is it not the same in our Christian lives?

13 "Arise, O LORD, disappoint him, cast him down: deliver my soul from the wicked, which is thy sword: 14 From men which are thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, which have their portion in this life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes. 15 As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness."

David says to God: arise and save me from ungodly men. Make them know that I, and thy people, are protected by thy impenetrable Holy Spirit power. Turn their hearts and minds away from me, and thy people, and let them be satiated, with the things of this earth.

David continues to express his confidence in the eternal salvation of God by proclaiming: after I am dead and buried, the Messiah will come, and in the resurrection of the dead in Christ, I shall behold thy face in that

righteous, immortal, body with which I shall be resurrected. Then, I will be satisfied completely, for I shall be completely sinless and no longer surrounded by the enemies of thy people. This is the hope, and belief, of every heir of the Grace of God. We shall be satisfied in the eternal day, where there is no darkness, and we shall forever bask in the light, of the glory of our Saviour and King, Jesus Christ, Hallelujah! Amen!