

RESCUE ME, O LORD

Psalm 140

I. WHY DO A SERIES ON HOW TO PRAY?

A. TO SERVE GOD MORE EFFECTIVELY

1. FIVE GOALS

- Share the gospel
- Disciple the next generation
- Touch the city
- Train ministers
- Reach the world

2. EFFECTIVENESS

- **Ph 4:13**—*I can accomplish all things through Him who strengthens me.*
- **Jas 5:16**—*The effectively powerful praying of a righteous person can accomplish much*

B. FOR OUR BENEFIT

1. To know God better
2. To meet our own needs
3. To help others

C. BEING CHRIST-FOLLOWERS

1. Obeying His command—**Lk 18:1**—we should **always pray**—and never lose heart
2. Becoming like their Master—Christ-like
3. Following His example—He prayed continually

II. WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT PRAYER

- ❖ **DRAW CLOSE TO GOD—WE HAVE SPECIAL ACCESS—TO “OUR FATHER”**
- ❖ **INTERCEDE URGENTLY FOR AND WITH EVERYONE WE KNOW**
- ❖ **FOR GOD’S PEACE UPON OUR COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORS**
- ❖ **BE INSTRUMENTS OF PEACE AMIDST TURMOIL**
- ❖ **OUR WITNESS WILL BE GODLY AND DIGNIFIED**
- ❖ **FAITHFULLY PROCLAIM CHRIST AS THE TRUTH**
- ❖ **WORK WE WILL EFFECTIVELY RECLAIM THE LOST**
- ❖ **THAT THE FATHER WILL SHOW HIMSELF IN A MIGHTY WAY**
- ❖ **BE HUMBLE—“NOT TO US, O LORD”—GLORIFY HIM ABOVE ALL**
- ❖ **STAND BOLDLY FOR HIS SUPERNATURALITY**
- ❖ **TESTIFY TO HIS HOLINESS—BE HOLY LIKE HIM**
- ❖ **HELP CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN THE HOLY AND THE HUMAN**
- ❖ **CALL UPON NAME OF THE LORD—PROVISION—PROTECTION—SALVATION**
- ❖ **URGENCY ABOUT CHRIST’S RETURN—BEING READY AND WORKING**
- ❖ **HELP BUILD HIS UNIVERSAL KINGDOM—NOT PETTY FIEFDOMS**

- ❖ **BECOME** WHO HE MADE US TO BE—AND **DO** WHAT PLEASURES GOD
- ❖ BE AWARE **HIS HEAVENLY WILL** IS FOUNDATIONAL, ETERNAL AND SUPREME
- ❖ ASK GOD TO KEEP US IN HIS **PERFECT WILL** EVERY STEP OF THE **WAY**
- ❖ ASK GOD TO REVEAL HIS **SPECIFIC PURPOSE** FOR EACH OF US HERE AND NOW
- ❖ HELP GOD ACCOMPLISH HIS **HEAVENLY WILL** ON EARTH
- ❖ WE DON'T WORRY, BUT **RELY** ON GOD FOR **ALL** OUR PROVISION
- ❖ WE DISCOVER WHAT OUR REAL **NEEDS** ARE
- ❖ WE TRUST THAT **GOD TRULY CARES** AND WANTS WHAT IS BEST FOR US
- ❖ WE EXPERIENCE A **SALVATION** THAT **BEGINS** WITH AND IS **SECURED** BY GOD
- ❖ WE **HUMBLE** SEEK GOD'S **FORGIVENESS** TO CANCEL OUR **DEBTS**
- ❖ WE DESIRE GOD'S **PRESENCE** TO CLOSE THE **GAP** AND RESTORE OUR **JOY**
- ❖ **NO SIN IS TOO GREAT—NO DEBT TOO BIG**—IT CANNOT BE FORGIVEN
- ❖ BECOME **FORGIVING** PEOPLE—BECAUSE WE CARE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS
- ❖ **INTERCEDE** WITH THE FATHER FOR **OTHERS'** FORGIVENESS
- ❖ **LEAD** US LORD ESPECIALLY THROUGH OUR TRIALS
- ❖ ENABLE US TO **GO WHEREVER** YOU WISH, NO MATTER THE **DANGER**
- ❖ HELP US **GROW** THROUGH ADVERSITY AND SUFFERING
- ❖ HELP US **NOT FALTER** IN THE FACE OF TEMPTATION
- ❖ HELP US **LEAD OTHERS** TO JESUS EVEN WHEN UNDER ATTACK
- ❖ **SUSTAIN** US DAILY EVEN WHEN WE ARE UNAWARE
- ❖ **DELIVER** US **FROM DANGER TO YOUR SIDE**
- ❖ HELP US **DELIVER OTHERS** TO YOUR CARE
- ❖ **DELIVER** US SAFELY **HOME** TO YOU

III. DOXOLOGIES TO GOD

Example: Thomas Ken's "Awake My Soul, and with the Sun" (1674)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 st stanza | Awake, my soul, and with the sun
Thy daily stage of duty run;
Shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise,
To pay thy morning sacrifice. |
| 11 th /last stanza | Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. |

A. DOXOLOGY IN THE LORD'S PRAYER—verse 13c

Mt 6:13c—For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

1. TRADITIONAL PURPOSE

- Praises God—affirms His greatness and our dependence on Him

2. TEXTUAL ISSUE

- Not found in earliest manuscripts—and not in Luke’s version
- But much evidence in next generation in Matthew
- Doxologies usually found in Hebrew liturgical prayers
- Possibly spoken by Jesus but omitted because it was ‘understood’

3. DOXOLOGY VOICES IDEAS RUNNING THROUGHOUT PRAYER

- Kingdom people—**affirm** Father as Sovereign Lord and King
- Kingdom people—**rely** on Father’s power to deliver
- Kingdom people—**praise** Father for revealing His glory

B. SIMILAR DOXOLOGIES

1. NEW TESTAMENT

II Tim 4:18—*The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed, and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

2. OLD TESTAMENT

I Chr 29:11—**David’s prayer** after collection made for Temple—*Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Lord, and You exalt Yourself as head over all.*

3. PRAISE DOXOLOGIES IN PSALMS—“**Praise the Lord!**”

- a. Opens Psalms—**111** and **112**
- b. Closes Psalms—**104, 105, 116**
- c. Opens and closes Psalms
 1. Scattered—**106, 113, 135**
 2. Block of “Praise Psalms”
 - **Psalms 146-150**
 - **Introduced by Prayer Psalm 145**

C. **PSALM 145**

1. Not just a ‘praise’ hymn—for others to sing
2. But David’s own prayer to God—as King—like **II Chr 29**
3. Imbeds doxology—of **kingdom, power, and glory**—in **verses 11-13**

1 *I will extol You, my God, O King, and I will bless Your name forever and ever.*
 2 *Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever.* 3 *Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable.* 4 *One generation shall praise Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts.*
 5 *On the glorious splendor of Your majesty and on Your wonderful works, I will meditate.* 6 *Men shall speak of the power of Your awesome acts, And I will tell of Your greatness.* 7 *They shall eagerly utter the memory of Your abundant goodness and will shout joyfully of Your righteousness.* 8 *The LORD is gracious and merciful; Slow to anger and great in lovingkindness.* 9 *The LORD is good to all, and His mercies are over all His works.* 10 *All Your works shall give thanks to You, O LORD, and Your godly ones shall bless You.* 11 **They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom and talk of Your power;** 12 **To make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts And the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom.** 13 **Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations.**

D. BOTH JESUS' AND DAVID'S DOXOLOGIES

1. **AFFIRM** THE FATHER'S SOVEREIGN AUTHORITY AND PROMISE
2. **RELY** ON THE FATHER'S KINGDOM POWER
3. **PRAISE** THE FATHER'S KINGDOM GLORY

IV. AFFIRM THE FATHER'S SOVEREIGN AUTHORITY AND PROMISE

A. FATHER'S SOVEREIGN PROMISE BEING FULFILLED

v10—*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven*

B. HOW FATHER'S KINGDOM BECOMES A REALITY

1. FIRST—WE AFFIRM HIS SOVEREIGN AUTHORITY TO DO THIS
 - a. As supreme **Father Creator**—v9—*Our Father Who art in Heaven, hallowed by Thy name*
 - b. As the **God of Israel**—who has shown Himself in history—**Psalm 145**
 - v3—*Great is the Lord—His greatness is unsearchable*
 - v6—*I will tell of your greatness*
 - v13—*Yours is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures to all generations*
2. THEN—WE MAKE FIVE PETITIONS—IN THE LORD'S PRAYER

- **Provide**—our daily needs—v 11
- **Forgive**—our debts—v12
- **Reconcile**—us with our debtors—v12
- **Guide**—and preserve us as we follow Him—v13
- **Protect**—and draw us to Him in danger—v13

3. HE RESPONDS—PROVIDES 3 FOUNDATIONS OF PROSPEROUS SOCIETY

- a. **Provision**—daily sustenance
- b. **Stability—Law and Order**
 - Holds everyone accountable to obey—and forgives trespasses
 - Expects everyone to keep the peace—by forgiving one another
- c. **Protection**
 - Guides us along safe paths
 - Delivers us *from* danger—to His side

C. SIMILAR TO ‘INVESTITURE’

1. **MEDIEVAL EXAMPLE**

- a. Ceremony
 - 1. Vassal
 - Gave **homage**—“I am your man”
 - Pledged **oath** of fealty—loyalty
 - Promised—**obedience** and **service**
 - 2. Lord
 - Granted **benefice**—token of property
 - Pledged **loyalty** to vassal
 - **Title**—identified place/rank of service
- b. Explanation of relationship
 - 1. Lord promised
 - **Provision**—**Benefactor**
 - **Stability—Law and Order**—**Lawgiver**
 - **Protection**—**Champion**
 - 2. Subjects promised
 - **Stewardship**—gave portion of benefice
 - **Obedience**—kept the law—kept the peace

- **Service**—went into battle—maintained domain (defense)

Ex: knight was given enough land to support him and his horse to serve in battle

2. MODERN EXAMPLES

a. Investiture Oath for Federal Office

"I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will **support** and **defend** the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true **faith** and **allegiance** to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully **discharge the duties** of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

b. Pledges in Church

- **Christian Flag**—I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag and to the Savior for whose kingdom it stands; one brotherhood uniting all mankind in service and love.
- **Bible**—I pledge allegiance to the Bible, God's holy word; I will make it a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path and will hide its words in my heart that I might not sin against God.

D. APPLICATION FOR 'KINGDOM PEOPLE'

1. FIRST ALLEGIANCE—LIEGE HOMAGE—IS TO THE FATHER

- It is **His** kingdom—not ours
- He **alone** is Lord—nobody and nothing else

2. LIVE EXPECTANTLY—GOD IS ESTABLISHING HIS KINGDOM!

3. BEHAVE LIKE KINGLY SUBJECTS

- Steward—all He provides us
- Obey the King—and ask forgiveness
- Keep His Peace—be reconciled—and forgive others
- Follow the Champion—wherever He leads—regardless of danger
- Depend on the Deliverer—for protection

4. CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

- We are in this together—"US"—our whole community—['one nation under God']
- Intercede for others—love our neighbors

V. RELY ON THE FATHER'S KINGDOM POWER

A. BIBLICAL EVIDENCE FOR THIS CONFIDENCE

1. DAVID—PSALM 145

- v4—*One generation will declare your mighty acts to another one*
- v5—*I will meditate on your wonderful works*
- v6—*Men will speak of the power of Your awesome acts*

- v12—*They will make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts*

2. OTHER TESTIMONIES—GOD’S POWER

a. To **provide**

- God fed **Elijah** bread/meat twice daily—by raven during drought—**I Kg 17**
- Through **Elijah**, God gave endless flour/oil to widow of Zarephath—**I Kg 17**
- Through **Elisha**, God gave endless oil to bankrupt widow—**II Kg 4**
- **Jesus**—wedding feast at Cana—turned 120-180 gallons of water to wine—**Jn 2**

b. To **forgive**

- God forgave **Israel’s idolatry**—after Moses’ urgent intercessory prayer—**Ex 32**
- Jesus forgave **Peter’s denials**—three times—**Jn 21**

c. To **reconcile**

- God reconciled **Jacob and Esau**—**Gen 33**
- God reconciled **Joseph and his brothers**—**Gen 45**
- Jesus reconciled **Matthew and Simon the Zealot**
- God reconciled **Saul and the Apostles**

d. To **guide**—and sustain—in trial

- God provided sacrifice for **Abraham**—**Gen 22**
- God stood by **Job** throughout his trials—and restored him

Job 42—testifies of God’s supreme power—*I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.—I have declared that which I do not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know—Therefore I retract, and I repent in dust and ashes.*

e. To **deliver** from danger

- **Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego**—from fiery furnace—**Dan 3**
- **Daniel**—from lion’s den—**Dan 6**
- **Joseph**—from betrayal by brothers—**Gen 39ff**
- **Jeremiah**—from imprisonment and betrayal by family—**Jer 38**
- **Israel**—remnant restored after 70 years’ captivity in Babylon!—**Ezra 1**

B. CONFIDENCE IN GOD’S POWER

Mk 11: 24—Jesus’ promise—*Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it shall be yours!*

C. APPLICATION FOR ‘KINGDOM PEOPLE’

1. GOD CAN AND WILL DELIVER US BY HIS POWER

2. ALL POWER COMES FROM HIM—NOT OURSELVES

- We are impotent without Him
- All power *anyone* has—comes from Him
- Even Jesus said this of Himself!

Jn 5:19—*Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing . . .*

3. PRAY THAT GOD WILL USE US—AS AGENTS OF HIS POWER

- By praying for others
- By serving others
- By blessing others
- By pointing others to Him—to reveal *His* power—not our own
- By not misusing His power in any way whatsoever—which is sinful!

4. THE PROFOUND MYSTERY OF GOD’S POWER—IN WEAKNESS

- **I Cor 1:25**—*the weakness of God is stronger than men.*
- **II Cor 12:9**—*My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.*
- **I Cor 1:18**—*For the preaching of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

VI. PRAISE THE FATHER’S KINGDOM GLORY

A. DAVID’S EXAMPLE—PSALM 145

- v1—*I will extol you—I will bless your name*
- v2—*I will praise your name forever and ever*
- v3—*Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised*
- v4—*One generation shall praise Your works to another*
- v5—*On the glorious splendor of Your majesty . . . I will meditate*

B. OUR ULTIMATE PURPOSE

1. WHY WE ARE CREATED—TO GLORIFY GOD—**Is 43:7**

2. FOR GOD’S GLORY ALONE—NOT OUR OWN GLORY

Ps 115:1—*Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your name give glory because of Your lovingkindness and Your truth.*

C. HOW TO GLORIFY GOD PERFECTLY—[JESUS' INTERCESSORY PRAYER]

1. JESUS SET THE EXAMPLE—HE DID GOD'S WILL

Jn 17:4—I glorified You on the earth, having accomplished the work which You have given Me to do.

2. JESUS' GLORY—COMES FROM BEING ONE WITH THE FATHER

Jn 17:5—Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

3. WE SHARE THIS GLORY!

1. By being united with Christ—who is one with the Father
2. Unified together as one body—in love
3. As a testimony to the world

Jn 17:22-23-The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

D. APPLICATION FOR 'KINGDOM PEOPLE'

1. ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF PRAYER

- To **glorify** God
- Not simply to meet our own needs

2. GENUINE PRAYER—MAKES US ONE WITH GOD

- Draws us closer to the Father
- Reveals His will and good intentions for us
- Brings us into line—with doing His will—to **glorify** Him

3. GENUINE PRAYER—UNIFIES ALL GOD'S 'KINGDOM PEOPLE'

VI. INVITATION

SAVIOR, LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US

Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us, for our use Thy folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

**We are Thine, Thou dost befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.**

Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Hear, O hear us when we pray.

**Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free.**
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to Thee.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! We will early turn to Thee.

Early let us seek Thy favor, early let us do Thy will;
Blessed Lord and only Savior, with Thy love our bosoms fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus! Thou hast loved us, love us still.