

God, Are You Listening? Psalm 86

In long-lasting trials and difficulties, our best response is TRUST in God's steadfast love and unmatched power...and trials are the best means of growing that trust.

LOOKING IT OVER...

Authorship: "Psalm of David"

A Classic Structure

A General Topic

A CRY FROM DEEP NEED (1-5)

- Bases his Pleas on...
 - His God
A bedrock passage for God's people...

Exodus 34:6
The LORD passed before him (Moses) and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness..."
 - His "godliness"
 - His Trust – and desire to live it faithfully
- Beginnings of the Plea...
 - Be gracious to me
 - Make my soul glad

A GOD WHO ANSWERS (6-7)

The Plea continues: Please pay attention!
Day(S) of Trouble
When pain persists and you've hit bottom...

"You can never learn that Christ is all you need, until Christ is all you have."
Corrie Ten Boom

"God is more concerned with conforming me to the likeness of His Son than leaving me in my comfort zones. God is more interested in inward qualities than outward circumstances - things like refining my faith, humbling my heart, cleaning up my thought life and strengthening my character."

"God doesn't just give us grace; He gives us Jesus, the Lord of grace."
Joni Eareckson Tada

Trust: "...for You WILL answer me!"

A HELPER UNEQUALLED (8-10)

- This God who answers is above
ALL GODS

Verse 8 answers an ancient biblical question borne out of the parting of the Red Sea.

Exodus 15:11-13

Who is like You among the Gods, O Lord? Who is like You, majestic in holiness, Awesome in praises, working wonders? You stretched out Your right hand, the earth swallowed them. In your lovingkindness You have led the people whom You have redeemed...

- This God who answers is passionate about ALL NATIONS

Genesis 12:2-3

...and I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing; and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

A HEART THAT TRUSTS (11-13)

In what kind of heart soil is TRUST most vibrantly cultivated?

- Teachability
- Truth-walking
- Single-heartedness
- Fear of the Lord's Name
- Gratitude
- Priority on Glory

TOWARD 'TRUSTY' LIVING (14-17)

Eyes on the SOLVER, not the problem(s)

- PRAISE

"Like supernatural effervescence, praise will sometimes bubble up from the joy of simply knowing Christ. But praise can also be supernatural determination. A decisive action. Praise like that is...quiet resolve. Fixed devotion. Strength of spirit."

Joni Eareckson Tada

- PRAY

"I choose to thank you for the trials...You bring my way because Your love is tough. Thank You for holding onto me and not holding back, and thank You for continuing Your tender care even when you're putting me through refining fires. In the midst...make me more aware of You and Your love than of any visible things in my life."

Ruth Myers – The Satisfied Heart

- PRESUME
(Plunder?)

WRAPPING IT UP...

"Leaning in to our Trials"

Exercise your TRUST muscle:

- Settle it: Do you TRUST Him or not?
- Pray like David did (honestly, expectantly).
- A 'step of trust' in your present need.
- A 'step of trust' that reaches (globally).