

DAVID'S PRAYER AND PRAISE

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Today's sermon is anchored on Psalm 69 where we see the psalmist, David, struggling in his life-threatening situation. Like David's other compositions, this psalm records David's prayer and praise to God even amidst various trials. And unlike other people, David's prayer contains several elements we seldom hear from someone who suffers. Let me give you three elements in David's prayer which we can also bring in our own communion with God.

David Admits His Own Shortcomings. (v.5)

Amidst his suffering, David didn't merely ask for deliverance from his enemies but admitted his own shortcomings, as well. This theme can also be found in some of his psalms like Psalm 25:7 where he asked for forgiveness while being persecuted by his enemies. David not only recognized his need for help on his external problems, but he also recognized his need for mercy in his internal crisis.

David Anticipates Victory Amidst Crisis (v.35)

Even if his present situation is uncertain, David anticipates God's absolute victory in the future. David's positive way of thinking stems from his unsinkable faith, backed up with his knowledge and experience of God's mighty and wonderful works. Many of his psalms contain a song of victory like Psalm 18, where David continually declares victory even against nations!

David Desires God's Presence over Everything (vv.16-18)

"Answer me, O Lord...", "Hide not your face from your servant...", "Draw near to my soul...". These words show how David longs for the presence of God. For David, God's presence is his ultimate goal in life. In Psalm 27:4, David sings with confidence, that even if his enemies encamp against him, there is only one thing which David asks. That he may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of his life, to gaze upon the beauty

of the Lord and to inquire in his temple. More than deliverance and salvation from his enemies, David's ultimate desire was to be in the presence of God!

Surely, it is not only David who experiences troubles, trials, testings, and threats. We, too, experience unwanted and unexpected situations where we would find it difficult to even sing praises to the Lord our God. We might be paying too much attention to the external problems that we miss the internal crisis we are in. We might be too distracted by our powerful foes that we fail to see victory. We might be too focused on other things that we fail to develop our desire for God's presence. May David's example of prayer and praise remind us that we must not be worried so much about our temporal problems, but we must focus on the eternal life we have in Christ. ✱