

Wednesday Word Meditation Material #23 (September 2, 2020)

OrderPrayer → Praise → Scripture → Understanding Scripture → Meditation on Grace → Prayer → Lord's Prayer

- ❖ Prayer – One of the family members or Individual
- ❖ Praise – If possible, Hymns 405 & 408 are to be sung. If not, please sing any good Christian song
- ❖ Scripture Reading – Psalm 86:1~17
- ❖ Understanding Scripture (*The Sign of God's Favor*)
 1. This psalm has a subtitle, “A Prayer of David.” We pray in good environment but, more we pray in difficult environment. This psalm is the prayer of David to seek God’s grace in his difficult environment.
 2. Verses 1~5 show us David’s assurance that God would reply to his prayer, which requests God’s mercy. Based on the words, “poor” and “needy” (v.1), David must be in very difficult situation. David prayed in that environment. Verses 6~7 repeat the previous contents in verses 1~5 as a summary of them. So, David reassures that God would reply to his prayer. Verses 8~10 tell us who God is to Whom David now prays and relies on. David describes God as the totally different Being from all other gods whom other people around him believe. The reasons for David to argue that are that God is 1) the Creator (“All the nations you have made”(v.9)) and 2) Great (“For you are great”(v.10)). When we know God who created and runs and controls the universe, before Him, we all should feel and shiver the greatness of God. This great God now oversee David’s situation and listens to David’s crying prayer. Yes, David believes and confesses that fact. Verses 11~13, based on the confession of faith on verses 8~10, reveals the expectation of God’s salvation. That expectation is more closely related to the glory of God than David’s satisfaction which is found in verse 12, “I will glorify your name.” In addition, from the expression in past tense (you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol), **we can see that David already experienced salvation of God and continued to remember, expect, and pray for.** The last part, verses 14~17 records that final plea for the salvation of God. The clue for the words, “poor” and “needy” in verse 1 is found in verse 14. That is “insolent men have risen up against me; a band of ruthless men seeks my life.” The pain in David’s life context is fully revealed. In that burdensome and tired situation, David requests God for “the sign of God’s favor” (v.17). That sign must be used for testifying that David’s prayer is not void noise but the alive and effective request to the Creator. On the one hand, David would be victorious and glorious before his opponents. On the other hand, David’s opponents would be shameful (God’s punishment and wrath) (v.17). So, David requests the sign of God’s favor.
 3. **In that sense, the “sign of God’s favor” is for the solution for the immediate problem. But, the reality of the sign is Jesus Christ who saved us from the sin and death.** We are saved by Jesus’ death and resurrection, the perfect sign of God’s favor, which witnesses the fact that God loves us, protects us, and leads us. David continually needs this sign for his life. But, we don’t need to repeat it because Jesus perfectly fulfill the role of sign of God’s favor.
- ❖ Meditation on Grace
 1. Do you know and confess Jesus as the perfect “sign of God’s favor,” His love, protection, and guidance?
 2. Based on the fact that the sign, Jesus Christ, is always with us, what can we do in this time of difficult? Why don’t we share our meditation and thought on David’s prayer and its contents shown today’s text?
 3. In all the urgent matters in our life, things tightening our neck, and dark situation, our quiet and kneeling prayer are currently effective “sign of God’s favor”(Jesus) because we pray in Jesus’ name. We are supposed to quietly hand over all things God’s hands with prayer!
 4. Prayer – Praying with the meditation and finishing with the Lord’s Prayer.