

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH

PSALMS-LESSON 15

WEEK OF JANUARY 11–JANUARY 16

PSALM 86

APPEAL TO THE GOD OF MERCY

This Psalm is the only Psalm of David in Book 3 of the Psalter. **Psalm 86** is filled with David's prayers, supplications and petitions. David is facing a time of personal distress and opposition from enemies. David does not mention the specific source of distress and opposition from arrogant men. **I Samuel** and **II Samuel** detail the many circumstances to which David may be referring to in **Psalm 86**. He is humbly appealing to God for help based on God's mercy. David makes several prayers and requests throughout this Psalm. Interspersed throughout his prayers and requests for help, he expresses his praise and worship of God as he reflects upon God's character, His attributes, His uniqueness and incomparable power.

As David is crying out to God, he reflects and meditates upon God's mercy and attributes. Those truths fill David with the confidence that God will answer (**vs 7**), help and comfort him in his distress.

While you study and meditate upon this Psalm, ask God to use **Psalm 86** to shape the way in which you pray as you encounter those inevitable trials, challenges and afflictions of life.

Read Psalm 86:1-7 David's Request For Help

1. What does David reveal about his condition and his relationship with God in **verses 1 and 2**?
2. What are David's requests of God in **verses 1-4**?
3. From **verse 5**, what does David express about God's character and attributes? How are those truths about God important as David is making this request for help?
4. Supplications in **verse 6** means to make a request for help. How does **verse 7** reveal David's trust in God to respond? Why is that confident trust important? Read **I John 5:14-15** for help.

Read Psalm 86:8-10 David's Acclamation of Praise and Confidence in God

5. In **verses 8 through 10**, what phrases does David use to express his confidence in the Lord's unique character and power? How do these truths relate to David's requests for help?
6. What does David express in **Psalm 86:9** about the future and God's power, reign and rule? What encouragement and hope does this truth provide to David who is encountering affliction at the hands of arrogant and violent men (**vs. 14**)? What hope and encouragement does this truth give you when facing affliction?

“We believe in a premillennial view of the kingdom which teaches that Jesus Christ will come back bodily to earth to set up a literal thousand year kingdom where He will rule from Jerusalem.” [CBC Doctrinal Statement](#). It is at that time when all the nations of the world will worship the Lord.

Read Psalm 86:11-13. David’s Prayer for Instruction and Single-minded Devotion

7. In **verse 11**, David makes two more requests of the Lord as he is experiencing affliction. What does David first request and what commitment does David then make to the Lord in **verse 11**? What is David’s second request in **verse 11**, and how is that related to his first request?

“Fearing God means having a reverence for Him that greatly impacts the way we live. The fear of God is respecting Him, obeying Him, submitting to His discipline and worshipping Him in awe.” [GotQuestions.org](#)

8. After requesting instruction from God’s Word coupled with a single-minded devotion to God, what does David express in thanksgiving and praise in **verses 12 and 13**?

Read Psalm 86:14-17. David Describes His Affliction and Appeals to God’s Compassion

9. From **verse 14**, how does David describe his affliction? What does he say about the relationship of the arrogant men towards God?

10. “**Psalm 86:15** is the most concise, yet profound confession of the Divine attributes in all of scripture.”

[Awake O Harp](#), William Varner, pg. 222.

In contrast to those tormenting him, what does David express about God’s divine attributes and provision for His redeemed in **verse 15**? Which of these attributes helps you in the current difficult situation you are facing?

“This truly glorious doxology (**Psalm 86:15**) in which there is not one redundant word, is taken from **Exodus 34:6**. Here is compassion for the weak and sorrowing, grace for the undeserving, long-suffering for the provoking, mercy for the guilty, and truth for the tested. God’s love assumes many forms, and it is lovely in them all. No matter what state we may be cast in, there is a special hue in the light of love which will harmonize with our condition.” [Treasury of David](#), C.H. Spurgeon, page 753.

11. What are David’s last requests in **verses 16 and 17**? What is the significance of David referring to himself as a “*servant*” and “*son of a handmaid*”?

12. As you reflect on David’s prayer and supplications with thanksgiving and praise in **Psalm 86**, how will you incorporate the truths of this Psalm as you are praying and seeking God’s help in trials, afflictions, difficulties and hardship. Be specific.