

## ***Calling on the Lord***

Psalm 35

*[This is a long psalm, so as usual with the longer psalms, rather than including the entirety of it here, I encourage you to read it before continuing on with this devotion.]*

In this psalm David calls on the Lord for help. Who among us hasn't? When in danger, children look to their father for help and protection. And so do we look to our heavenly Father. Quite right.

Yet sometimes we don't. Sometimes we take matters into our own hands and try to take care of it ourselves. Maybe because we're not satisfied with how God's doing it. Maybe because we think our Father is taking too long. David asks that in this psalm: ***How long, O Lord, will you look on?*** But what happens when we try to do it ourselves is that we often fall into the same sin we're asking for help against. Our cause may be right and just, but we don't always go about it the right way.

But our Father in heaven always does. We may disagree with His time and His ways, but that's because we are quite limited in what we see and know. Far better is to call upon the Lord and trust Him - leave it in His hands. We hear that confidence in this psalm as well. David knows the Lord will deliver. David knows he will be vindicated. That is, that his faith will be shown to have been right.

And so at the end of this psalm, we read:

***“Great is the Lord,  
who delights in the welfare of his servant!”  
Then my tongue shall tell of your righteousness  
and of your praise all the day long.***

Those are faith words, for it may not always seem that the Lord delights in the

welfare of His servant. It may not always seem like the Lord delights in you when things are difficult, challenging, or seem to be always going wrong. But He does! A sinful and sin-filled world will not always go our way, but your Father in heaven is always on Your side. And if you ever doubt that, just look at the cross, and there we learn two things: first, things that look really, really bad, God can use for our good - and the cross is the greatest good God has ever worked for us! The forgiveness of our sins and our rescue from sin, death, and the devil. And second, there you see how much God loves you, that He would give Himself, in the person of His Son, for you.

David knew that. Though he had much good in his life, he also had much difficulty. But through all of life's ups and downs, he knew he could count on the Lord. His Father in heaven would not let him down. And He will not let you down either.

*Lord God, my heavenly Father, thank You for Your faithfulness to me. Though I am not always faithful, You are, and I call to You for help in every time of need. Help me to believe and to trust and to wait for Your deliverance. And when I doubt, send Your Spirit to point me to the cross of Jesus, where I see my eternal good and how much You love me. And if You would do that for me, I know You will provide everything else I need as well. Then, as David also prayed, open my lips, that Your righteousness and praise be in my mouth always and forever. Amen.*