

## A Confident Cry for Help

Psalm 28

Have you ever *really* cried out to the Lord? If so, then you know He is *always* faithful to answer. His answers may not be what we were expecting, but He isn't just interested in fixing problems: He wants to strengthen our hearts. Psalm 28 is a *confident* cry for help.

## A Call to the Lord

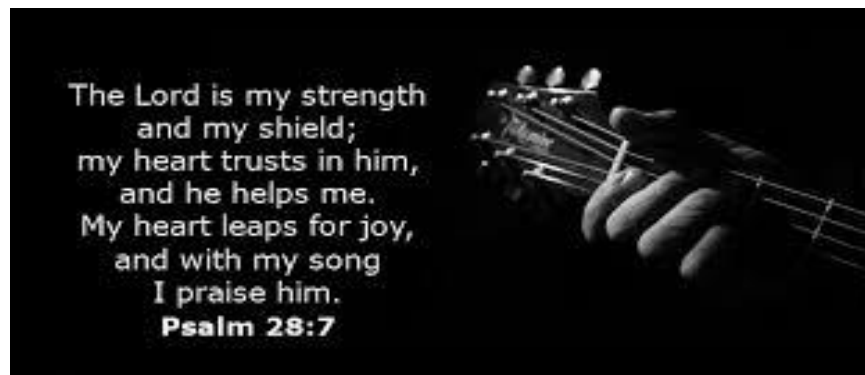
- A plea to preserve life (1-2)
- A plea to judge the wicked (3-4)

## A Call to the Congregation

- Praise for answered prayer (5-8)
- Putting ourselves in the Lord's hands (9)

## The Psalmist's Example

- Confession: 'Come clean' before the Lord
- Commitment: Leave judgment to the Lord
- Confidence: Let your heart rejoice in the Lord



## Digging Deeper

1. Most of us have never feared for our lives because of our faith, but open ridicule of Christians is not uncommon in Hollywood and the media. People gathered for worship or prayer have been the target of attacks in recent years. The Center for Studies on New Religions says Christians are the most persecuted single religious group in the world. David faced danger from enemies as well. According to Ps. 28.1, what was his fear? What do you think David meant when he wrote, 'I lift up my hands toward your Most Holy Place'? What was that 'most holy place'? Who dwelt there? Compare David's words here with James 4.7-10.
2. In verses 3-4, David separates himself from 'the wicked...who do evil...etc.' He intreats the Lord to punish them for what they have done. Would you pray what David prayed in these verses? To do so, you have to first deal with your own sin, don't you? What does this indicate about David's own spiritual life? How did he deal with his own sin? (See Psalms 32, 38, 51, 139.) How should we deal with our sin today? (See 1 John 1.9.)
3. Verses 5-8 are a stark contrast to the pleas for protection and judgment in verses 1-4. What is the general tone in these verses? What emotions are here? What prompts this sudden change in the psalmist? Have you ever 'caught a glimpse' of the greatness of God, and been overwhelmed with the assurance of His love?
4. Verse 9 concludes this psalm with a confident prayer: *Save your people and bless your inheritance; be their shepherd and carry them forever.* Who were God's *people* and *inheritance* to which David referred here? While this will never change (God will *be their shepherd and carry them forever*), believers are also God's *inheritance* (see Eph. 1.18)! How can this be so? To explore the twin truths of God's chosen people Israel, and the dispensation of grace extended to Gentiles in this present age, read Romans 11.1-29!