

Psalm 66 Thou Hearest Prayer

Table Psalm 66:16-20

- 16 *Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul.*
- 17 *I cried unto him with my mouth, and he was extolled with my tongue.*
- 18 *If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:*
- 19 *But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer.*
- 20 *Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me.*

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *Volume I of the Book of Psalms* pp 431-433.

Notes on Psalm 66:16-20

1. **Psalm 66:16.** Psalm 66:16 is King David's open invitation to all those as today's believer should be such that "they were not of double heart" 1 Chronicles 12:23 "and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment" Genesis 18:19 of whom the Lord states in Jeremiah 32:39-40 "And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me."

King David promises to testify "As the LORD liveth, that hath redeemed my soul out of all distress" 1 Kings 1:29 to such that "they were not of double heart" 1 Chronicles 12:23 "and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment" Genesis 18:19 as today's believer should be prepared to "He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake" Psalm 23:3.

Today's believer should therefore be prepared to testify according to 1 Peter 3:15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

2. **Psalm 66:17.** Psalm 66:17 is King David's introduction to his open invitation of Psalm 66:16 by means of open declaration of "praise to the LORD God of Israel" as in Judges 5:3 "Hear, O ye kings; give ear, O ye princes; I, even I, will sing unto the LORD; I will sing praise to the LORD God of Israel" that stems from an inner devotion as it should be for today's believer. Note of course King David's testimony to "the righteous judgment of God" Romans 2:5, 2 Thessalonians 1:5 in the scriptures that follow.

"I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being. My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD. Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless thou the LORD, O my soul. Praise ye the LORD" Psalm 104:33-35.

3. **Psalm 66:18.** Psalm 66:18 is King David's dire warning with respect to the main reason for un-answered prayer such that *no-one* could truly testify "I will declare what he hath done for my soul." King Solomon, the prophet Isaiah and the apostle James firmly reinforce that warning, James with particular emphasis on the iniquity of *doubt*. Note King Solomon's remedy for un-answered prayer.

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" Proverb 28:13.

"Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear" Isaiah 59:1-2.

“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord” James 1:6-7.

Not long ago this writer was minded to reveal as follows to a brother in Christ his fear of iniquity leading to unanswered prayer and how God dealt with it from scripture.

I wondered if I was out of fellowship with God in my disquiet over the situation. I noted these verses in daily Bible reading...not in the exact chronological order they came to my attention but as follows. The result was I think I am in fellowship with God and my disquiet is also His...

“Now we know that God heareth not sinners; but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth” John 9:31. God does not show anyone out of fellowship with Him anything from scripture **“For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord”** James 1:7.

“And it came to pass at the seven years’ end, that the woman returned out of the land of the Philistines: and she went forth to cry unto the king for her house and for her land...And when the king asked the woman, she told him. So the king appointed unto her a certain officer, saying, Restore all that was hers, and all the fruits of the field since the day that she left the land, even until now” 2 Kings 8:3, 6.

I think the Lord showed me what I’d never seen before though I’d read those verses numerous times. The woman cried unto the king only for her house and land. She received those *and* a royal guardian *plus* full compensation for 7 years’ lost produce. On the basis of that first-time revelation, I concluded that I’m not out of fellowship with God. For today’s believer the application of 2 Kings 8:3, 6 is Ephesians 3:20-21 **“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”**

4. **Psalm 66:19-20.** Psalm 66:19-20 are King David’s declaration of **“what he hath done for my soul”** Psalm 66:14 in that devotionally as today’s believer should consistently King David overcame Psalm 66:18 **“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me”** according his earnest desire for forgiveness and cleansing from sin via Psalm 51:1-3, 9-10 **“Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me...Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me”** because **“The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?”** Proverbs 18:14. See also John 9:31 above.

King David therefore can testify according to Psalm 66:19-20 to those he has invited to hear his testimony what should be today’s believer’s testimony **“But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation. I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me”** Psalm 13:5-6 and **“The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit...The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth”** Psalm 34:18, 145:18.

See www.imgrum.net/media/1173152379426593566_2301117069.

Today’s believer has this further assurance of answered prayer if like the Lord Jesus Christ he will abide by Luke 22:42 **“not my will, but thine, be done.”**

“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him” 1 John 5:14-15.

