

## e-concepts

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### The Prayers of David

**2 Samuel 7:18-19** After David desired to build a temple and God denied him that request, David prayed. Rather than mourn or complain, David rejoiced in the sovereignty of God and His promise. When God denies our specific requests, we should rejoice in the gifts He has given and will give and praise Him for who He is.

**2 Samuel 12:16-23** The child that Bathsheba conceived, through David's adultery with her, became sick. David prayed, fasted, and lay all night on the ground. But God denied David's request for the child to live. When the child died, David's prayer and fasting ended. David always made himself content with the will of God. God is often gracious and merciful, so it is good to pray for these things but not to demand or expect them. It is biblical to pray for God to bail me out of the results of my sin, even though God does not always grant it.

**Psalms 3:7; 4:1; 5:1-2; 7:1; 12:1; 13:1-4; 17:13; 60:11; 88; 102; 142; 143** David was a man of prayer. He prayed, he sang prayers, and he also called upon God to answer his prayers. That does not mean he only prayed to get answers or that his answers governed his prayer life. David believed it was his job to pray and God's job to answer. But David's job was not to dictate God's job. David asked God to answer because it was good to ask God to answer, not because God was obliged to answer.

**Psalms 18:1-2** David expressed his love for God. It's an emotional love, but it's based on an intelligent understanding of the character of God. David prayed emotionally. He was in love with God emotionally. But the knowledge of the God he was in love with came intelligently. I should express my love for God in prayer. It must, however, be a love based on my feelings about the righteous character of God. I must exercise my will to believe in God based in my intellect (knowledge of Him) then use my emotions to express the love I have developed for the God I know.

**Psalms 19:14; 34:15-17; 131** David, after praising God for His creation and His law, asks God to keep him from sin and to let his words and thoughts be acceptable to God. David's desire was that he change so that he might be acceptable to God. The standard for my thoughts and words in my prayer is what is acceptable to God.

**Psalms 23** David expressed his trust in God as his leader and provider. *He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake* (23:3). My trust must be in God, not my friends or teachers or employers or parents or spouse or government, etc. It is that trust in God which should be expressed in my prayers.

**Psalms 35:1, 5; 55; 56; 59; 64; 69; 70; 94; 109; 140** David was a warrior king. He fought many enemies. But David never saw himself or his armies as the destroyer of his enemies. David left that up to God and asked God to do it. We should take reasonable action in conflict situations but never assume we can defeat our enemies. For example, we may have to hire a lawyer, but we must depend on God, not lawyers.

**Psalms 84:1, 2, 10** David expresses his desire to be in the presence of God in God's own dwelling place and stand in His courts. David says if he could just stand in the entry way of God's dwelling place, it's better than living with the wicked. It is biblical to pray telling God how we long for His presence, not just in our hearts but especially in heaven with Him in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21-22).

For more information see Prayer study book on Relational Concepts web page:  
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