



**“PLEADING IN PRAYER”  
PSALM 70: 5**

MANY YEARS AGO, YOUNG PAINTERS WERE ANXIOUS TO STUDY UNDER THE GREAT MASTERS. THEY CONCLUDED THAT THEY WOULD ATTAIN EXCELLENCE EASIER IF THEY ENTERED THE SCHOOLS OF EMINENT MEN. LIKewise, IF ANY OF US AS CHRISTIANS WOULD LEARN THE ART AND MASTERY OF PRAYER, IT WOULD DO US WELL TO STUDY THE PRAYERS OF THE GREAT MASTERS OF PRAYER AS FOUND IN THE BIBLE. DAVID UNDERSTOOD PRAYER WELL. SO WELL DID HE KNOW HOW TO PRAISE, AND SO WELL DID HE UNDERSTAND HOW TO PRAY, THAT IF WE CATCH HIS SPIRIT, AND FOLLOW HIS MODE OF PRAYER, WE WILL LEARN HOW TO PLEAD WITH GOD IN OUR PRAYERS. HAVE OUR CIRCUMSTANCES OVERWHELMED US? DO THE HEAVENS SEEM FAR AWAY FROM OUR CRIES? THEN THIS IS THE PSALM FOR US!

**I. THE SOUL CONFESSING**

A RUNNER CANNOT HOPE TO WIN A RACE IF HE IS CARRYING ANY EXCESS. JUST SO, IF WE ARE GOING TO WIN IN THE REALM OF PRAYER, WE MUST GET RID OF EVERY WEIGHT OF SIN BY CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND FAITH.

IT IS SIGNIFICANT TO NOTICE THAT BEFORE JESUS FED THE THOUSANDS, HE MADE THE DISCIPLES SUM UP ALL OF THE PROVISIONS. HE DIDN'T WANT ANYONE, ONCE THEY HAD BEEN FED BY HIS MIRACLE, TO CLAIM THAT IT WAS THE BASKET OR THE LITTLE BOY WHO HAD FED THEM. LIKewise, WHEN JESUS TOLD THE DISCIPLES TO CAST THEIR NET ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE SHIP, UPON WHICH LATER THEY DRAGGED THE NET WITH A MIGHTY CATCH, HE DID NOT DO SO UNTIL THEY HAD TOLD HIM THEY HAD WORKED ALL NIGHT LONG AND HAD TAKEN NOTHING. THEY WERE TAUGHT THAT THEIR SUCCESS WAS DEPENDENT UPON THE LORD. THERE ARE MANY MORE SUCH EXAMPLES FOUND IN THE BIBLE.

DAVID CONFESSED HIS COMPLETE NEED AND DEPENDENCE UPON THE LORD BY CONFESSING BEFORE HIM. GOD WANTS US TO GET TO THE POINT WHERE WE CAN TESTIFY THAT A BLESSING COMES NOT FROM OURSELVES, OR FROM OTHERS, BUT ONLY FROM GOD HIMSELF! OUR FIRST STEP IN PRAYING IS CONFESSING OUR GREAT NEED TO THE LORD AND LETTING HIM KNOW THAT APART FROM HIM WE CAN DO, AND HAVE, NOTHING.

**II. THE SOUL PLEADING**

AFTER THE SOUL HAS UNBURDENED ITSELF OF ALL WEIGHTS OR MERIT OR SELF-SUFFICIENCY, IT PROCEEDS TO PRAYER, TO PLEADING WITH GOD.

IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTICE THAT BEGGARS ARE MEN WHO USUALLY HAVE PLENTY OF PLEAS ON HAND. WHEN A MAN IS STARVING, HE CAN USUALLY FIND A REASON WHY HE SHOULD ASK HELP OF EVERY LIKELY PERSON. IF WE WERE HALF AS MUCH ALERT WITH ARGUMENTS WHEN WE ARE BEFORE THE LORD THEN HOW MUCH MORE WILL OUR PRAYERS BE ANSWERED! DAVID PLEADED WITH GOD FOR HIS MERCY AND HIS HELP, AND WE WOULD DO WELL TO DO THE SAME.

**III. THE SOUL FEELING URGENT**

IF WE ARE REALLY UNDER A SENSE OF NEED, AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD IS AT WORK WITHIN US, THEN WE WILL AND WE MUST BE URGENT. AN ORDINARY SINNER MAY BE CONTENT TO WAIT, BUT A QUICKENED SINNER WANTS MERCY NOW! GOD WILL COME SPEEDILY WHEN OUR SENSE OF NEED BECOMES DEEP AND URGENT. WHEN WE FEEL THAT NEED URGENTLY, THEN WE WILL GET THE BLESSING WE WANT.

Presented by Dr. Jimmy Hilton

**SOUTH POINT  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

*Finding God's Direction for Life*



**IV. THE SOUL GRASPING GOD**

“THOU ART MY HELP AND MY DELIVERER.” THE SWEETNESS OF THE BIBLE LIES IN THE POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS, AND IF WE LEARN TO USE THEM, THEN OUR SOULS HAVE GRASPED GOD IN PRAYER. WE MUST REALIZE THAT OUR HANDS WERE MADE EMPTY SO WE CAN GRASP THE HAND OF OUR GOD—“OUR HELP AND OUR DELIVERER”. WHEN WE HAVE A HEIGHTENED SENSE OF THE PRESENCE AND THE LOVE OF GOD, THEN WE WILL BE ABLE TO PRAY BETTER AND MORE EFFECTIVELY.