

## Ps 5.8-9—A Prayer for Guidance

### David's Request, v.8

- I. *Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness*
  - A. He's looking to God to lead him in faithfulness, Isa 40.11
  - B. He's asking that God would direct his steps and keep him in the way of peace, safety, truth, and holiness and in the way of inoffensive behavior, pure speech, and wise and godly living.
- II. *Make your way straight before me*
  - A. He's either asking that God would clear the way before him so he can find it (Ps 119.105) or that God would level the way so that he can more easily walk in it (Ps 18.36).

### David's Reason, vv.8-9

- I. *Because of my enemies*
  - A. David didn't want to give his enemies an occasion against him and bring dishonor to the Lord.
  - B. These enemies were people of crooked speech with evil hearts bent on malice and mischief.
  - C. But he knew that if God led him, he'd be safe in their midst, from their mischief, and from their malice.

### David's Rationale

- I. David knew and presupposed some things about God:
  - A. God was the all-wise God suited to guide him; the faithful God who promised guidance; and his loving God committed to guiding him.
- II. David also knew and presupposed some things about himself:
  - A. He was neither able to see nor hold a right and godly course without God as his guide because:
    1. He was naturally ignorant, Jer 10.23; he was naturally foolish, Ps 116.11; he was naturally sinful, Jer 17.9
- III. In short, this means: we cannot truly pray to God or trust in God's guidance unless we have a conviction of these truths regarding God and ourselves. We need a conviction of who we are and who God is; of our emptiness and His fullness; of our need and His supply; of our foolishness and His wisdom, Heb 11.6

### Helps to seek the Lord's guidance

*We need guidance.* We're no more self-sufficient than we are self-existent. We depend entirely upon God to show, lead, and enable us to walk in a right path. But what exactly does this look like?

- I. Be encouraged by the promises that God *will* guide you, Ps 25.8; 73.24; Isa 48.17; 49.10; 58.11
- II. Learn from how God guided Israel in the wilderness by the cloud, Num 10.11-36
  - A. He leads in such a way that we never have cause to doubt His presence, but ever have cause to exercise our faith in Him. He leads us with our good and His glory in mind.
  - B. This is the happiest and safest life, Ps 4.8; 144.15
- III. Beware of growing impatient with the Lord's ways and timing, Ps 27.14
  - A. We can grow impatient and want to move ahead of God and manipulate the circumstances to get the outcome we want (Ex 32.1) which only lengthens our wait! (Ex 32.30; 34.28)
- IV. Consider that God uses 4 things to reveal His will to us:
  - A. His Law is a rule for our obedience, Dt 5.23
  - B. His truth as the only infallible rule of faith and practice, Ps 119.9, 105. We need to grow in the knowledge of our Bible!
  - C. Godly examples and mentors, 1Cor 11.1; Heb 13.7; Tit 2.7; Prov 16.31. We have a responsibility to seek out and attach ourselves to men and women whose lives and conversation emulate Christ and provoke us unto godliness.
  - D. Biblical counsel, Prov 11.14; 12.15
- V. A few principles of godly conduct will help us discern God's will for our lives. These 6 questions can serve as a helpful grid:
  - A. Is it lawful? Sin is never an option, 1Cor 6.9-11. Resolve to do *nothing* that needs an excuse or a disguise.
  - B. Is it beneficial to me? Will it lead me closer to Christ? 1Cor 6.12
  - C. Is it enslaving? 1Cor 6.12. God has given us a spirit of self-discipline, 2Tim 1.7
  - D. Is it consistent with Christ's Lordship over me? 1Cor 6.19-20
  - E. Is it edifying to others, or would it lead others astray? Will it bring honor or dishonor to my church family? 1Cor 10.23-24
  - F. Will it bring glory to God? 1Cor 10.31

As we pray for guidance, we must seek to bring our lives in subjection to the Word of God and fix our desires on the glory of God.