

## God... Are You There? Psalm 6 & 77

Have you ever prayed a prayer like that? Is it ok to pray in this way?

Is it ok to ask God, “Are You listening?” “Do You see what’s going on?” “Do You even care?” “Will You do something about what is happening?”

Should we be concerned about God’s anger if we pray prayers of frustration, complaint, and/or questioning his presence or purpose?

God has broad shoulders, so He can handle being on the receiving end of prayers like these! **“He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust!”**

He knows that His ways are beyond our comprehension, beyond our ability to trace out with our own finger, so He does not hold that against us.

But... **Are these types of prayers appropriate in the life of a person of faith?**

Did you hear faith or the lack thereof in my prayer?

- **You heard me question!** But who was the recipient of it? God!
- **You heard my frustration!** But God knows I am before I say a word!
- **You heard me complain!** But does God share that same complaint?
- **You heard me admit that I don’t understand!** That’s being human!

But what else did you hear?

- Did you hear the declaration of God’s faithfulness to His promises?
- Did you hear of God’s proven track record of care & providence?
- Did you hear faith in God, even in the midst of the woes of life?

Having faith doesn’t mean we have all the answers, it simply means we live with an assurance & a hope, based on who God is – not our circumstances!

God has given us prayers of lament in the Scriptures to model for us what faith-filled prayer is, even with our human condition & our broken world!

**I knew I could pray this prayer this morning because I am in good company!**

King David and Asaph prayed similar prayers in Psalm 6 & 77. Their circumstances were different, but I share in their prayerful response!

Let us look intently at these two Psalms of lament and see all the mixed human emotions, but also see a trust in a God whose ways are higher!

*Psalm 6* - <sup>1</sup> O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath. <sup>2</sup> Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing; heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled. <sup>3</sup> My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O LORD—how long?

<sup>4</sup> Turn, O LORD, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love. <sup>5</sup> For in death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol who will give you praise?

<sup>6</sup> I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping. <sup>7</sup> My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows weak because of all my foes.

<sup>8</sup> Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping. <sup>9</sup> The LORD has heard my plea; the LORD accepts my prayer.

*Psalm 77* - <sup>1</sup> I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, and he will hear me. <sup>2</sup> In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted. <sup>3</sup> When I remember God, I moan; when I meditate, my spirit faints. Selah

<sup>4</sup> You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak. <sup>5</sup> I consider the days of old, the years long ago. <sup>6</sup> I said,<sup>[a]</sup> “Let me remember my song in the night; let me meditate in my heart.” Then my spirit made a diligent search: <sup>7</sup> “Will the Lord spurn forever, and never again be favorable? <sup>8</sup> Has his steadfast love forever ceased? Are his promises at an end for all time? <sup>9</sup> Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?” Selah

<sup>10</sup> Then I said, “I will appeal to this, to the years of the right hand of the Most High.”

<sup>11</sup> I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old.

<sup>12</sup> I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds. <sup>13</sup> Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God? <sup>14</sup> You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples. <sup>15</sup> You with your arm redeemed your people, the children of Jacob and Joseph. Selah

<sup>16</sup> When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid; indeed, the deep trembled. <sup>17</sup> The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth thunder; your arrows flashed on every side. <sup>18</sup> The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lighted up the world; the earth trembled and shook. <sup>19</sup> Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters; yet your footprints were unseen. <sup>20</sup> You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Through the sea & desert, God led His people, we can trust Him to do the same today!

## God... Are You There? Psalm 6 & 77

Have you ever prayed a prayer like that? Is it ok to pray in this way?

Is it ok to ask God, “Are You listening?” “Do You see what’s going on?” “Do You even care?” “Will You do something about what is happening?”

Should we be concerned about God’s \_\_\_\_\_ if we pray prayers of frustration, complaint, and/or questioning his presence or purpose?

God has broad \_\_\_\_\_, so He can handle being on the receiving end of prayers like these! **“He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust!”**

He knows that His ways are beyond our comprehension, beyond our ability to trace out with our own finger, so He does not hold that against us.

But... Are these types of prayers appropriate in the life of a person of \_\_\_\_\_

Did you hear faith or the lack thereof in my prayer?

- You heard me \_\_\_\_\_! But who was the recipient of it? God!
- You heard my \_\_\_\_\_! But God knows I am before I say a word!
- You heard me \_\_\_\_\_! But does God share that same complaint?
- You heard me admit that I don’t \_\_\_\_\_! That’s being human!

But what else did you hear?

- Did you hear the declaration of God’s faithfulness to His promises?
- Did you hear of God’s proven track record of care & providence?
- Did you hear faith in God, even in the midst of the woes of life?

Having faith doesn’t mean we have all \_\_\_\_\_, it simply means we live with an assurance & a hope, based on who God is – not our circumstances!

God has given us prayers of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Scriptures to model for us what faith-filled prayer is, even with our human condition & our broken world!

I knew I could pray this prayer this morning because I am in \_\_\_\_\_  
King David and Asaph prayed similar prayers in Psalm 6 & 77. Their circumstances were different, but I share in their prayerful response!

Let us look intently at these two Psalms of lament and see all the mixed human emotions, but also see a trust in a God whose ways are higher!

***Psalm 6*** - <sup>1</sup> O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath. <sup>2</sup> Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing; heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled. <sup>3</sup> My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O LORD—how long?

<sup>4</sup> Turn, O LORD, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love. <sup>5</sup> For in death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol who will give you praise?

<sup>6</sup> I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping. <sup>7</sup> My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows weak because of all my foes.

<sup>8</sup> Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping. <sup>9</sup> The LORD has heard my plea; the LORD accepts my prayer.

***Psalm 77*** - <sup>1</sup> I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, and he will hear me. <sup>2</sup> In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted. <sup>3</sup> When I remember God, I moan; when I meditate, my spirit faints. Selah

<sup>4</sup> You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak. <sup>5</sup> I consider the days of old, the years long ago. <sup>6</sup> I said,<sup>[a]</sup> “Let me remember my song in the night; let me meditate in my heart.” Then my spirit made a diligent search: <sup>7</sup> “Will the Lord spurn forever, and never again be favorable? <sup>8</sup> Has his steadfast love forever ceased? Are his promises at an end for all time? <sup>9</sup> Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?” Selah

<sup>10</sup> Then I said, “I will appeal to this, to the years of the right hand of the Most High.”

<sup>11</sup> I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your wonders of old.

<sup>12</sup> I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds. <sup>13</sup> Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God? <sup>14</sup> You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples. <sup>15</sup> You with your arm redeemed your people,  
the children of Jacob and Joseph. Selah

<sup>16</sup> When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid; indeed, the deep trembled. <sup>17</sup> The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth thunder; your arrows flashed on every side. <sup>18</sup> The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lighted up the world;  
the earth trembled and shook. <sup>19</sup> Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters; yet your footprints were unseen.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>20</sup> You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

Through the sea & desert, God led His people, we can trust Him to do the same today!