

1A Psalm 86:1-5:

1B Introduction, 1a A Prayer of David.

2B Petitions and Reasons, 1b-5:

1C To listen, 1b-1c:

1D Call to the Lord to listen, 1b: Bow down Your ear, O Lord, hear me;

2D Reasoning, 1c: For I am poor and needy.

2C To preserve life, 2:

1D Call to the Lord to preserve life, 2a: Preserve my life,

2D Reasoning, 2b: for I am holy;

3D Reasoning, 2c: You are my God;

4D Call to the Lord to Save, 2d: Save Your servant who trusts in You!

3C To be merciful, 3:

1D Call to the Lord for mercy, 3a: Be merciful to me, O Lord,

2D Reasoning, 3b: For I cry to You all day long.

4C To give joy, 4:

1D Call to the Lord to give joy, 4a: Rejoice (piel verb) the soul of Your servant,

2D Reasoning, 4b: For to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul (a figure of speech meaning to direct the desire).

5C Final reasoning, 5 For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive (*sallah*, a verb used only with God as the subject of the action), And abundant in mercy (*chesed*) to all those who call upon You.

3B Summary:

1C The one whose actions and focus in life are solely on the Lord, and with total humility, exhibits everything needed for grace.

2C This prayer of David exemplifies grace orientation in every way possible.

3C Notice that David's very life is at stake in this prayer for forgiveness.

4C And that ultimately David names God's character as his final reason that the Lord should forgive him.

5C No mention of the price paid is here, but it is implied, as grace always implies. Grace never means that something is free. It means that the price is paid by someone else.