

Psalm 28 (NASB)

**To You, O LORD, I call;
My rock, do not be deaf to me,
For if You are silent to me,
I will become like those who go down to the pit.
Hear the voice of my supplications when I cry to You for help,
When I lift up my hands toward Your holy sanctuary.
Do not drag me away with the wicked
And with those who work iniquity,
Who speak peace with their neighbors,
While evil is in their hearts.
Requite them according to their work and according to the evil of their practices;
Requite them according to the deeds of their hands;
Repay them their recompense.
Because they do not regard the works of the LORD
Nor the deeds of His hands,
He will tear them down and not build them up.**

**Blessed be the LORD,
Because He has heard the voice of my supplication.
The LORD is my strength and my shield;
My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped;
Therefore my heart exults,
And with my song I shall thank Him.
The LORD is their strength,
And He is a saving defense to His anointed.
Save Your people and bless Your inheritance;
Be their shepherd also, and carry them forever.**

The psalmist makes many appeals in this psalm. He begins by begging God to pay attention to his plight. From his perspective, he seems to be suffering like the wicked, even though he fears God. We can empathize in some ways. I expect that we've all had times when we've done our best to do what we think God demands, only to find trouble and hardship in our paths. And when it seems like we are suffering right along with people who fight against God, we beg God to remember our devotion and save us. That's what this psalmist is doing.

The psalmist goes farther by asking God to deal justly with the wicked by punishing them according to their deeds. Justice demands that evil people get what they deserve—punishment equal to their wickedness. Notice that there is no appeal for mercy in this psalm. The entire appeal is based on an understanding of God's justice. Since the psalmist was one of God's anointed, and since he was living faithfully, he expected God to uphold His covenant promises and take care of the righteous while punishing the wicked.

The last portion of this psalm could have come after some interval of time, because the psalmist's prayer seems to have been answered. Or maybe he simply believes, in the midst of his troubles, that God's impending justice is certain. Either way, the psalmist rejoices because God is attentive, powerful, trustworthy, just, and a shepherd to His people. It's good to remember that we and this psalmist pray to the exact same God. He still hears us. And when we need Him most, he still picks us up and carries us, because He is still our shepherd.