

Psalm 144 is a psalm of David. It is quite obvious that David experienced all kinds of things in life. He experienced highs and lows, ups and downs and successes and failures. Through it all he learned to talk to God. He talked to God a lot. He had an open and honest relationship with God.

He knew his own weaknesses and strengths and he knew there were those out to stop him. There were those out to destroy him. So he would continually talk to God. Now we cannot help but notice that we are getting near the end of the Psalms. What that means is David is older in time and in life and he still sensed the need to talk with the Lord. He still found himself in times of trouble and he needed God's help. He had his share of enemies until the end of his life. For the most part those enemies used their speech to speak deceitful and false things (**144:8, 11**). They made false statements about David that were not true. The only thing David could do was talk to God.

He knew his own sin. He also knew his true commitment to the Lord and the only one he could rely on was the Lord. He had problems and he talked to God. If this is true for David, it certainly will be true for us. What we see here is this:

**WHEN DAVID WAS SURROUNDED BY THOSE WHO HATED HIM, HE PRAISED GOD AND PRAYED TO GOD AND ASKED GOD TO RESCUE HIM.**

Now there are five key parts to this Psalm:

**PART #1** – David praises God for who God had personally been to him. **144:1-2**

This is so important to see. Look how personal God was to David all through his life. There are nine reasons David praised God. These are wonderful things to know and learn about God:

**Reason #1** - David praised God because God was his personal rock. **144:1a**

We cannot make it through life without God. He is like a rock. He has solid, unwavering stability.

**Reason #2** - David praised God because God was his personal trainer. **144:1b**

The idea of God training certainly implies we need training. David was older, but he was still learning and still growing. David believed that God was so personal that He could even train his fingers to be skillful.

**Reason #3** - David praised God because God to him was personally merciful. **144:2a**

David is going to ask God to mercifully deliver him and he begins by praising God for His former mercy. God had been a merciful God to David all through life and He also has been with us.

**Reason #4** - David praised God because God was his fortress. **144:2b**

The safest place to be is in our relationship with God. He watches over us and protects us.

**Reason #5** - David praised God because God was his strength. **144:2c**

Strength to go on in life and strength to fight comes from God. We certainly will not find much strength in ourselves; strength comes from God.

**Reason #6** - David praised God because God was his deliverer. **144:2d**

David did not think any victory had come because of his military expertise or valor. He knew God was his deliverer.

**Reason #7** - David praised God because God was his shield. **144:2e**

The word for shield refers to a portable shield and not a large one. This kind of shield can go into every situation. This was David's view of God. God went with him into every battle.

**Reason #8** - David praised God because God was his refuge. **144:2f**

When David was intimidated or scared, he went right to God. He ran to God as quick as a horse runs to shelter.

**Reason #9** - David praised God because God was his sub doer. **144:2g**

David had enemies everywhere and if God does not subdue them, we cannot stand.

John Calvin said every one of these terms is designed to strengthen one's faith in the face of warfare. We obviously need to be reminded of these things and praise God for them.

It is clear that David depended on God and he praised God that God had been so personal and wonderful to him.

It is interesting that when David first begins this Psalm, he needs help and what he specifically does is praise God for the help He had been to him all of his life.

**PART #2** – David was humbled by the reality that God would have anything to do with any man. **144:3-4**

David could not get over the fact that God would have anything to do with him. David had walked with God for many years as **verses 1-2** prove. However, he never saw himself as anything great. He knew what he was made of and he was amazed that God would take an interest in him.

This is the kind of attitude that truly moves God. David never demanded anything from God, but was amazed that God cared about him. **The truth is when we begin to see the insignificance of ourselves, it enhances and elevates our estimation of God.**

There were three questions David had about God in his connection to any man:

**Question #1** - Why would God be interested in having knowledge of anything pertaining to any man? **144:3a**

David knew himself. He knew what he was. He knew God knew everything about him and every other person. Why would God even want knowledge of any of us? We are all sinners.

**Question #2** - Why would God even let His mind think about any man? **144:3b**

The emphasis here is on the Son of man, who is none other than Jesus Christ. Why would the second member of the Trinity even have thoughts about sinful people to the point that He would even be willing to come into this world to save them?

**Question #3** - Why would the eternal God be interested in any temporal human? **144:4**

David never even considered himself worthy to talk with God. We are a mere breath, like a passing shadow compared to Him. Why would God care about us?

We aren't much of anything and we won't be here very long. Compared to the eternal God, we are just a little speck in time and yet God was interested in us.

**PART #3** – David asks God to display His awesome majestic power over his enemies. **144:5-8**

In **verses 5-6**, David asks God to personally leave His heavens and come down and physically display His sovereign power and majesty against enemies. Notice David says in **verse 5** that the heavens are “your heavens.” David asks God to cause mountaintops to smoke and lightning to scatter and confuse (**v. 6**). **Only God can sovereignly use His creation to accomplish His judgment purposes.**

Now the ultimate fulfillment of these cosmological things will occur when Jesus Christ returns at the end of the Tribulation and will stamp out His enemies. Through the Tribulation, He will physically display His power (Is. 64:1ff) through things He does with creation. Lightning and earthquakes and disappearing mountains and other things will occur in the Tribulation when God pours out His wrath (i.e. Rev. 16:18-21).

But David was looking for God's help then. In fact, in **verse 7**, He asks God to rescue him and deliver him from “great waters.” Those words mean that David was in deep trouble and he needed God's sovereign help. When you are in times of deep distress, go to God.

God does have all sovereign power to be able to help us. In **verse 8**, David described those who were causing problems for him—they were deceitful and they did deceitful things.

When we pray we need to realize how powerful God actually is. He does have the power to intervene and put a stop to our enemies. When we find ourselves in difficult times, we can ask God to leave His focus on His great heaven and take a personal interest in us here on earth.

God does actually have the power to destroy enemies. In fact, when Paul I Timothy he actually prayed and committed Hymenaeus and Alexander to Satan (I Tim. 1:20).

**PART #4** – David promises God that he will sing a new song in the aftermath of His deliverance. **144:9-11**

Harp in David's day had eight, nine or ten strings. The best harp and the most expensive harp had ten strings.

David said that if God would deliver his soul he would sing a new song accompanied by ten strings (**verse 9**). I actually think when Jesus Christ is here on earth, David will probably do this. I hope we can hear him sing because he probably does have a beautiful voice.

Now in **verse 10** we learn why he will praise God—God is the one who gives salvation and God is the one who rescues His servants from evil things and evil people.

Do you see who gives salvation to whom? Do you see who does the rescuing? It is God!

In **verse 11** David again asks God to rescue and deliver him out of the hands of aliens that is those who do not know God. They are deceitful with what they say with their mouths and deceitful in what they do with their hands.

**PART #5** – David asks God to bless His people. **144:12-15**

David was not just interested in getting God's blessings and deliverance in his life; but also he wanted that for the people of God. In **verse 12**, David prayed for sons and daughters. He wanted them to have God's blessings. He asked God for three blessings:

**Blessing #1** - He asked God to prosper His people physically. **144:12**

David's desire was that sons and daughters grow up to become strong plants and pillars.

**Blessing #2** - He asked God to prosper His people economically. **144: 13-14**

David asks God to bless His people with their plants and flocks and cattle. He wanted God's people to have financial success.

**Blessing #3** - He asked God to prosper His people spiritually. **144:15**

People who are getting these blessings are right with God. In fact, he says, "How blessed are the people whose God is the LORD."