

PRAYING PSALM 41

“Lord be merciful to me: Heal my soul, for I have sinned against you” (Psalm 41:4).

David’s sin had lingering effects. Everything was a reminder of his failure. It took time to restore the peace he once had. He considered himself as needy as the poor. His grief over his sin took his strength. His body and soul were afflicted with the effects of his feelings of guilt. David was ill and apparently unable to perform his duties. He prayed to God. David’s prayer is divided into three parts: 1. THE BLESSINGS OF GOD’S GRACE (1-3). David considered himself no better off than a poor person. He asked to be treated like one. He asked God to rescue him in times of trouble. He asked God to keep him alive. He asked God to prosper him and to deliver him from his enemies. He asked God to restore his health. 2. THE NEED FOR GOD’S MERCY (4-11). David asked for another chance. His soul needed healing because of his sin. He wanted to be raised up in victory over his enemies. 3. THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF GOD’S GRACE AND MERCY (12-13). David pleaded with God on the basis of his integrity. He anticipated living in God’s blessings from everlasting to everlasting.

Grace and mercy are God’s provisions for rising after a fall. Grace is the God-given ability to do what we are not able to do. Mercy is another chance. If you have fallen and can’t get up, this psalm is for you. Begin as a pauper like David did. Ask God for His grace, and accept His mercy. Then move forward in the integrity of your heart. Moral failures happen as a result of acting outside of God’s grace. If this psalm applies to you, ask the Lord for another chance to live in His amazing grace.