

145 ¶ QOPH. I cry out with *my* whole heart; Hear me, O LORD! I will keep Your statutes.

1Sa 1:15 And Hannah answered and said, “No, my lord, I *am* a woman of sorrowful spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor intoxicating drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

Heart cries are the essence of prayer

In all your closet duties God looks first and most to your hearts: "My son, give me thine heart": Pr 23:26. It is not a piece, it is not a corner of the heart, that will satisfy the Maker of the heart; the heart is a treasure, a bed of spices, a royal throne wherein he delights. God looks not at the elegancy of your prayers, to see how neat they are; nor yet at the geometry of your prayers, to see how long they are; nor yet at the arithmetic of your prayers, to see how many they are; nor yet at the music of your prayers, nor yet at the sweetness of your voice, nor yet at the logic of your prayers; but at the sincerity of your prayers, how hearty they are. There is no prayer acknowledged, approved, accepted, recorded, or rewarded by God, but that wherein the heart is sincerely and wholly. The true mother would not have the child divided. God loves a broken and a contrite heart, so he loathes a divided heart

If God does not hear we pray in vain if we do not hear and obey we pray in vain

Jeremiah 29:13 And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart.

146 I cry out to You; Save me, and I will keep Your testimonies.

Tit 3:5* not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

God alone saves alone

From my sins, my corruptions, my temptations, all the hindrances that lie in my way, that I may "keep thy testimonies." We must cry for salvation, not that we may have the case and comfort of it, but that we may have an opportunity of serving God the more cheerfully.

147 ¶ I rise before the dawning of the morning, And cry for help; I hope in Your word.

Ps 5:3 My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; In the morning I will direct *it* to You, And I will look up.

Communion with God is our business

So strong was his desire after salvation that he could not rest in his bed

Ps 63:1 <<A Psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah.>> O God, You *are* my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.

Heb 6:19* This *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul,

Hope strengthens our prayer

Desire and expectation

148 My eyes are awake through the *night* watches, That I may meditate on Your word.

Ps 63:6 When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the *night* watches.

Our Holy Pursuit

Luke 6:12 Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

149 ¶ Hear my voice according to Your lovingkindness; O LORD, revive me according to Your justice.

Ps 64:1 <<To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David.>> Hear my voice, O God, in my meditation; Preserve my life from fear of the enemy.

Isa 63:7 I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD *And* the praises of the LORD, According to all that the LORD has bestowed on us, And the great goodness toward the house of Israel, Which He has bestowed on them according to His mercies, According to the multitude of His lovingkindnesses.

- (a) He expects to be answered certainly.
- (b) He expects to be answered wisely.
- (c) He expects to be answered fully, as all his needs require.
- (d) He expects that every answer should quicken spiritual life, making him holy

150 ¶ They draw near who follow after wickedness; They are far from Your law.

Ps 22:16 For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;

Those who are far from you are all around me

We were once them

Eph 2:13* But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

151 You *are* near, O LORD, And all Your commandments *are* truth.

Mt 1:23* “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

God is always nearer

152 ¶ Concerning Your testimonies, I have known of old that You have founded them forever.