

Psalm 142 David's prayer when he was in the cave

¹ I cried to the LORD in prayer begging Him to be kind enough to look upon me with favor. Oh, but I didn't JUST pray. No, no! I prayed with the same fervency as if I was on an airplane and the pilot just announced that all of the engines had quit. ² I told the LORD every little detail about how I had been so severely mistreated and how I didn't deserve such awful treatment. I didn't leave out a single thing, and I made sure that He understood how difficult it has been for me to continue bearing up under such severe persecution. I said,

³ "LORD, when I was overwhelmed by my troubles and weak from carrying the burden of them alone, it was no surprise to You. You knew about it all the time. In fact, You were fully aware of how I have lived and that I don't deserve such harsh treatment. You saw the way my opponents hid traps for me along the paths I frequented. ⁴ LORD, look all around me, and see for Yourself that there is no one who cares what happens to me, and there is no way by my own power that I can escape the devastation my enemies try to pour out upon me. I am simply all alone, and no one has enough concern to come to my aid. ⁵ LORD, when I was really down in the dumps, I realized that You were my only hope. Then I cried out for help and said,

'LORD, you are my shelter from danger, the place where I can hide for safety. Since my family and friends have all abandoned me, You are my family here on the earth as long as I live. ⁶ Please pay close attention to my cry for help, and listen with great interest. Please do so, because I am at one of the lowest points in my life, and it seems like things simply can't get any worse. Please rescue me from those who persecute me because these people are too strong for me to overcome by myself. ⁷ Release me from the prison that they have made for me so that I can once again praise You and give thanks to Your wonderful name in public worship without fear of being attacked or ridiculed. When You do a wonderful thing like rescuing me, those who live in a good, right, and just manner will become my closest companions. They will be the ones who will surround me for my good instead of the evil men who surround me on every side today seeking my destruction.'"