

GROUP LEADERS NOTES ON PSALM 54

Question 1

- a) The three things are God's name; God's power and God's attention.
- b) God's name is Holy and it is to be honoured. Here we have an understanding of 'Yahweh'; the name which God reveals to Moses in **Exodus 3:14**.
- c) He is the one who is pre-existent in that He always has been; self-existent in that He relies on no-one and 'no-thing' in order to exist; and that He is in all and over all things.
- d) There is no other name to appeal to!
- e) God is the one who will judge the situation David is in and will exercise His power as He sees fit.
- f) David acknowledges that he is totally reliant on God not only hearing but answering ("*give ear*") his prayer.

Question 2

- a) David could see why Saul pursued him; to protect his throne. He could see why Saul's 3000 troops pursued him; out of blind obedience to their commander. But here were those from his own tribe and of his own blood; the Ziphites.
- b) They are 'strangers' because they do not understand God's purposes as he does.
- c) That is a picture of what we face as Christians. Until we were saved we were strangers (**Eph 2:12-13**).
- d) The writer of Hebrews switches the thought around to show that we are in turn 'strangers in the world' because we have a different mind-set (**Heb 11:13**).

Question 3

- a) 'Helper' implies an on-going care and involvement in his life. However strong the enemy; God is stronger!
- b) 'Upholder' speaks about God continuing to work out His purpose for David's life; despite the circumstances that seem to defy it.
- c) Sometimes he felt he was falling but underneath were the everlasting arms (**Deut 33:27**).

Question 4

- a) Justice and Faithfulness.
- b) God's enemies will be repaid. This refers back to David's prayer in verse 1 that God would vindicate (**Rom 12:17-21**).
- c) David is able to have confidence that God will do what is right. That confidence and trust comes in a belief in, and experience of, God's faithfulness.

Question 5

- a) In Leviticus we have all the feasts and festivals set out by God. The people of God were to keep each one exactly as it had been prescribed. Some were to confirm a vow; others for forgiveness of sin.
- b) When summarising all these we discover an additional type of offering in **Lev 23:37-38**.
- c) The idea of the 'freewill offering' was that of giving willingly, voluntarily or spontaneously. This offering is distinguished from one that was prescribed by law and was an overflow of thanks. This offering could also be a practical gift as seen in **Exodus 35:29** when the Tabernacle was built.
- d) The application here is that we should express our thanks to God in an overflow of our hearts. What we give is not for a favour anticipated or out of compulsion. It is simply because we cannot help it!

Question 6

- a) Refer to Paul's great statement of the victorious life in **2 Cor 2:14**.
- b) The first part of verse 7 is a declaration of faith which recalls what he has proven of God's faithfulness in the past, and expresses his confidence in the same for the present situation.
- c) When David sees the power of the enemy, he sees the even greater power of God. Therefore he is able to look in triumph on his enemies (**1 John 5:4-5**).