

# Psalm 17:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have called upon thee, for thou wilt hear me, O God: incline thine ear unto me, and hear my speech.

## Analysis

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David's confidence in prayer—'I call upon You, for You will answer me'—demonstrates assurance grounded in God's character. The request to 'incline Your ear' uses intimate language suggesting attentive listening. This anticipates Jesus' teaching on persistent prayer (Luke 18:1-8) and John's assurance that God hears His children (1 John 5:14-15). Reformed theology grounds prayer confidence in God's covenant faithfulness.

## Historical Context

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Written during persecution when prayer was David's primary recourse. Ancient Near Eastern petitions often used similar language requesting a superior's attention.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

1. How confident are you that God hears your prayers?
2. What grounds your assurance that God will answer when you call?

## Interlinear Text

אָנָּי	קָרָאתִ יְבָנִי	כִּי	תִּשְׁמַעַנִּי	לִ	אֵל	בָּט	אָזְנָב
H589	<b>I have called</b>	H3588	<b>upon thee for thou wilt hear</b>		<b>me O God</b>	<b>incline</b>	<b>thine ear</b>
	H7121		H6030		H410	H5186	H241
לִ	שָׁמַעַנִּי	אָמְרָתִי					
H9001	<b>unto me and hear</b>	H8085	<b>my speech</b>	H565			

## Additional Cross-References

**Psalms 116:2** (Parallel theme): Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

**Psalms 88:2** (Parallel theme): Let my prayer come before thee: incline thine ear unto my cry;

**Psalms 86:7** (Parallel theme): In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me.

**Psalms 55:16** (References God): As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me.

**Isaiah 37:17** (References God): Incline thine ear, O LORD, and hear; open thine eyes, O LORD, and see: and hear all the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent to reproach the living God.

**Isaiah 37:20** (References God): Now therefore, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD, even thou only.

