

Psalm 119
week 2, v. 82-83

Think about what it means to be faithful.

WordWeb: steadfast in affection or allegiance; marked by fidelity to an original; loyal

How faithful are you to your promises? Compare your response to the faithfulness of God.

Ps 119:82 My eyes fail [with longing] for Thy word, While I say, "When wilt Thou comfort me?"

Do you long for God's rescue? Why or why not? Where are you looking for answers?

Remember the overriding theme of vs. 81-88. God reaching down to us with all we need, us reaching out a hand to Him for help. David continues to write of his distress. He's at the end of his rope, nothing left and the only longing he has is for God's pity on him to comfort him. What a difficult place to be, yet, what a perfect place to be! When we finally let go of self and grab hold of God!

Ps 69:3 I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched; my eyes fail while I wait for my God.

Ps 6:6 I am weary with my sighing; every night I make my bed swim, I dissolve my couch with my tears.

Does God answer according to our timing? Are His answers always what we want or expect? Will God answer our prayers?

Tit 1:2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

Nu 23:19 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

Heb 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

1Co 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, that you may be able to endure it.

Ver. 82. -- When wilt thou comfort me? It is a customable manner of God's working with his children, to delay the answer to their; prayers, and to suspend the performance of his promises: not because he is unwilling to give, but because he will have them better prepared to receive. ... he is slow to give that which we seek, that we should not seek slowly, but may be awakened to instancy and fervency in prayer, which he knows to be the service most acceptable unto him, and most profitable unto ourselves. --William Cowper.

HINTS TO PREACHERS.

Ver. 82. -- Answer to the enquiry -- When wilt thou comfort me?

1. When your grief has answered its purpose.
2. When you believe.
3. When you leave sin.
4. When you obey.
5. When you submit to my will.
6. When you seek my glory.

What can we learn from this scripture? We are to look to Jesus and expect His deliverance.

Isa 8:17 And I will wait for the LORD who is hiding His face from the house of Jacob; I will even look eagerly for Him.

Isa 45:22 "Turn to Me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.

Heb 12:1-2 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Ps 5:3 In the morning, O LORD, Thou wilt hear my voice; In the morning I will order [my prayer] to Thee and [eagerly] watch.

What do we do while we are waiting on His promises? Even as we weary looking to God for His intervention, our faith is to remain steadfast.

Heb 6:12 that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through **faith and patience** inherit the promises.

Heb 10:36 For you have need of **endurance**, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

Ga 6:9 And let us **not lose heart in doing good**, for in due time we shall reap if we **do not grow weary**.

1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, **be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord**, knowing that your toil is not [in] vain in the Lord.

2Co 7:1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us **cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God**.

Heb 3:14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we **hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end**;

Application : We are to practice faith, patience, and endurance; all the while continuing to serve without growing weary. We are to be steadfast, immovable and rich in good works, putting off sin and increasing in holiness in reverence to God. We are to tightly claim our inheritance until He returns or calls us home.

Think! The Psalmist is determined to keep his eyes on God. What does this say about his focus?

Ps 119:83 Though I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, I do not forget Thy statutes.

A wine skin was traditionally made from the hide of a sheep or goat and was dried, cut and sewn to hold liquid. They are still used today and are commonly known as bota bags. Think of what happens to anything that is subjected to heat and smoke for a long period of time. It dries up and wrinkles. **Have you heard someone say the words " I' m parched" ?** Being parched probably goes along with a feeling of being exhausted. David has used something familiar to the culture he is in to describe how he feels.

Hall' s Explication of Hard Texts explains the meaning of becoming like a wineskin in the smoke this way. " I am dried up, and shrunk, and deformed and wrinkled, with sorrow" .

Exhaustion enters into all of our lives at some time or another. It may be from turmoil, from illness or from responsibilities that weigh heavy on us. **The point is, how do we respond?**

Do we remember who we are in Christ and what we are about? The words David uses are " I do not forget Thy statutes" . This word forget means to mislay, to be oblivious of from lack of memory or attention. There are many things we

learn and then forget. Among them, people's names, places we've been, experiences we've had and information we've digested in the past. However, we remember the things that are important to us.

When our cares seem especially heavy or grief threatens to overtake us, the example is for us to continue to hold tight to God's word – only there will we find rest and peace.

Ps 22:15-22 My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And my tongue cleaves to my jaws; And Thou dost lay me in the dust of death. 16 For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet. 17 I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; 18 they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. 19 **But Thou, O LORD, be not far off; O Thou my help, hasten to my assistance.** 20 **Deliver my soul from the sword, my only [life] from the power of the dog.** 21 **Save me from the lion's mouth; And from the horns of the wild oxen Thou dost answer me.** 22 **I will tell of Thy name to my brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will praise Thee.**

Whether Psalm 22:15-22 is speaking directly of David or Christ is disputable to those who are learned men of scripture. But, what we can take from this is the pattern: recognition of deliverance from difficult situations through the power of God.

When you are discouraged do you pray to God, do you praise God?

Christians do not, in their troubles, forget God's statutes -- the statutes of command, the statutes of promise. Why was it that David still held fast by God's statutes? TOD

De 4:7 "For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is the LORD our God whenever we call on Him?"

Ps 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Ps 62:7 On God my salvation and my glory [rest]; The rock of my strength, my refuge is in God. Ps 62:8 Trust in Him at all times, O people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah.

Heb 4:16 Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need.

The worst circumstances cannot destroy the true believer's hold upon his God. Grace is a living power which survives that which would suffocate all other forms of existence. Fire cannot consume it, and smoke cannot smother it. A man may be reduced to skin and bone, and all his comfort may be dried out of him, and yet he may hold fast his integrity and glorify his God. Treasury of David

Our bodies may fail but our faith must not; no person and no thing can touch my soul.

Application Questions

What do the following verses say about God's faithfulness?

Numbers 23:19

Hebrews 10:23

Is God faithful? How have you seen His faithfulness in your life, in the lives of others?

According to 1 Corinthians 10:13, will there ever be a circumstance in your life that is too difficult for you to go through in a way that honors God? What will God provide?

Read Isaiah 8:17 and Psalm 5:3. What are we to do when God's answers don't seem to come quickly?

Read Hebrews Chapter 11 through 12:2. What is our example in

Hebrews 6:12

1 Corinthians 15:58

How would God have you apply these truths to your specific circumstances right now? How will you take comfort in His promises and faithfulness?