

## A CRY OUT TO GOD

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### Psalm 143

Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications!  
In Your faithfulness answer me, and in Your righteousness.  
Do not enter into judgment with Your servant,  
For in Your sight no one living is righteous.  
For the enemy has persecuted my soul;  
He has crushed my life to the ground;  
He has made me dwell in darkness,  
Like those who have long been dead.  
Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me;  
My heart within me is distressed.  
I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works;  
I muse on the work of Your hands. I spread out my hands to You;  
My soul longs for You like a thirsty land. Selah  
Answer me speedily, O Lord; My spirit fails!  
Do not hide Your face from me,  
Lest I be like those who go down into the pit.  
Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning,  
For in You do I trust;  
Cause me to know the way in which I should walk,  
For I lift up my soul to You.  
Deliver me, O Lord, from my enemies; In You I take shelter.  
Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God;  
Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.  
Revive me, O Lord, for Your name's sake!  
For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.  
In Your mercy cut off my enemies,  
and destroy all those who afflict my soul;  
For I am Your servant.

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This Psalm, Psalm 143 is titled, "An Urgent Appeal for Help, A Psalm of David." We know enough of the life of King David from the books of 1 & 2 Samuel, the beginning of 1 Kings, and then in 1 Chronicles. We learn of him as a youth seeing the giant Goliath and saying, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" He said that he had already killed a bear and a lion, as a shepherd watching over the sheep, and told King Saul, "The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. He then took some stones and his sling and shot a stone right in the forehead of Goliath and he dropped like a stone (pun intended). David's brothers considered him to be cocky and arrogant because of his confidence in the Lord. Yet David knew in who he believed in, in who already had given him victories over a bear and a lion. He knew that he had God Almighty fighting for him. We know also that faith itself

is a gift from God and is given in different measures to each of us according to His purpose (Romans 12:3). God had given David the faith, the confidence, to do what he was meant to do. We also know that David was a skilled musician and would play for King Saul when an evil spirit would come to harrass him. Yet, even with the soothing music of David's harp Saul began to throw spears at him while he played and would eventually not hide his hatred for David when he began chasing him throughout the countyside, trying to kill him. There are many Psalms that appear to have been written in regards to his cries for God's help when Saul was pursuing him. We also know of the time when King David took another man's wife and had him killed. One of his trusted and valiant warriors even. And because of his sin with Bathsheba, whom he took from Uriah, his first-born son died of sickness. We also know of David taking a census of Israel that angered the Lord and 70,000 men of Israel then died of a plague. Other notable bad things that happened in David's life were his son Amnon defiling his sister and another son Absalom trying to take the throne while David was still king. Add in that all of the battles David was in and even one time having to act like a madman, drooling on his beard, and acting crazy, so that he could escape with his life, and David had a very trying, or challenging life. Yet, from his highs to his lows, David knew who he believed in. He knew that God was a God of great mercy, and longsuffering, and grace, and goodness. So much so that even though King Saul was trying to kill him David knew that Saul was God's anointed king and that he dare not harm him. Yet David was still human after all. He still made his fair share of mistakes. Yet why was David called a man after God's own heart? Psalm 143 has our answer to that question. "Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, and in Your righteousness." He knew who was his God, His Lord, His Redeemer, His Help in time of need. David knows that God is **faithful**! He didn't have the mindset that the Israelites had in Isaiah the prophet's day where he wrote, "But Zion [Israel] said, "The Lord has forsaken me, and my Lord has forgotten me." God responds with, "Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands." (**Isaiah 49:14-16**) As the Apostle Paul spoke over the Thessalonians in **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**, "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is **faithful**, who also will do it." David always seem to have in his heart and mind that although he was not yet perfected, God was not done with him, as Paul says in **Philippians 1:6**, "being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." God IS faithful. David also knew where righteousness comes from. In another Psalm that is ascribed to David, **Psalm 51**, it says, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence,

and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners shall be converted to You." Not only did David know that God is faithful, that God IS righteousness, but that it was necessary to be right in God, abiding in His Righteousness, so that he could tell others about the goodness and faithfulness of God. It is the Great Commission that Jesus spoke to His disciples, after He had risen from the dead and before He went back up into heaven, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." Did David understand that Jesus would one day die on a cross for our sins? It's possible for sure. He is credited with writing the **22nd Psalm** where he describes the suffering Jesus went through in being crucified. "I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It has melted within Me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots." (vs. **14-18**) While he wrote that, being inspired by the Holy Spirit, prophesying about Jesus' death of crucifixion, it is really unknown how much he understood what he was writing. Yet He knew who to believe in, to put his trust in. He knew that God was/is faithful. He knew that God alone is righteous, and that his and our righteousness comes only from Him. "For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble." He is saying, I am yours Lord, therefore keep me out of trouble, by Your Righteousness. "For in Your sight no one living is righteous." "There is none righteous, no not one." Except God alone. He IS Righteous.

"For the enemy has persecuted my soul; He has crushed my life to the ground; He has made me dwell in darkness, like those who have long been dead. Therefore my spirit is overwhelmed within me." David knew who to turn to when he was in trouble that God is his help in time of need. Even when it seemed as though the enemy had crushed his life to the ground. Anyone ever been there? Maybe you're there right now. At times it seems as though evil is around us, that there is no way of escape. That evil can be the sin that is warring with your soul. Be assured dear child of God, that nothing is too difficult for Him. Greater is He that is in you than he (the devil and all of his demons) that is in the world. God is greater than any addiction, any vice, any bondage, any situation, and obstacle, anything that is seemingly destroyed and beyond repair. God is greater than any of those things. He is God Almighty. He is the Creator of all things. He is our Creator, our Lord, our Savior, our Rock, our Fortress> He is the King of kings and Lord of lords. He IS Omnipotent, All-Powerful!

And here's the best news yet. "**But God** demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."

When we first believe on Jesus, I mean really believe on Jesus from our hearts, that He died for our sins, so that we can be reconciled to God, to have fellowship with God, so that when we pray to Him and He hears us and answers our prayers, to where we now have forgiveness of sins against God (we have all sinned against God), we can now live in the newness of life, have the Righteousness of God working in us, and then as David said, we can "teach transgressors [His] ways, and sinners shall be converted to Him." We then abide in His Righteousness, to not only bless God but also be a blessing to others. And we also then have the peace of God that guards our hearts and minds.

Here's the secret that David knew and also Isaiah, and all those who are children of God can know. **Isaiah 26:3** says, "You will keep him/her in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You." God brought us this far, did He not. Just as David did, so should we. He looked back to what God had already done for him, and trusted that God led him thus far and will continue to lead him out of any trouble that came his way. "I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works." After the Israelites had defeated the Philistines, Samuel the prophet set up a stone and called it Ebenezer, which means stone of help, as a reminder that God helped them then and He will do it again.

King David knew though that if he had sinned, that he had to confess it to God and ask for His forgiveness. As it says in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." That is for those who have already received Jesus as their Lord and Savior. To those who haven't yet come to Christ for salvation and forgiveness of your sins, today is that day. Do not let another day go by for it is not guaranteed that any of us even have another day to get right with God. "But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8) "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." For those who are in a dark place, maybe to where you feel like giving up, where there doesn't seem to be any hope, Jesus IS your answer. He is not a mind-control technique, He is not a philosophy, He wants to be Lord of your life. He wants all of you. Even if that means He has to pick up the

shattered pieces of your heart and soul. He is waiting for you. He loves you. Look to the Ebenezer's of your life, those times He has already helped you to get to this place right now. He's ready to have you set up another stone of remembrance of the Goodness, and faithfulness, and Mercies of God. They that call upon the name of the Lord will be saved. Call on Him now and believe.