

Psalm 88

¹ Lord, you are the God who saves me;
day and night I cry out to you.

² May my prayer come before you;
turn your ear to my cry.

³ I am overwhelmed with troubles
and my life draws near to death.

⁴ I am counted among those who go down
to the pit;

I am like one without strength.

⁵ I am set apart with the dead,
like the slain who lie in the grave,
whom you remember no more,
who are cut off from your care.

⁶ You have put me in the lowest pit,
in the darkest depths.

⁷ Your wrath lies heavily on me;
you have overwhelmed me with all your
waves.

⁸ You have taken from me my closest
friends
and have made me repulsive to them.

I am confined and cannot escape;

⁹ my eyes are dim with grief.

I call to you, Lord, every day;
I spread out my hands to you.

¹⁰ Do you show your wonders to the
dead?

Do their spirits rise up and praise you?

¹¹ Is your love declared in the grave,
your faithfulness in Destruction?

¹² Are your wonders known in the place
of darkness,

or your righteous deeds in the land of
oblivion?

¹³ But I cry to you for help, Lord;
in the morning my prayer comes before
you.

¹⁴ Why, Lord, do you reject me
and hide your face from me?

¹⁵ From my youth I have suffered and
been close to death;
I have borne your terrors and am in
despair.

¹⁶ Your wrath has swept over me;
your terrors have destroyed me.

¹⁷ All day long they surround me like a
flood;

they have completely engulfed me.

¹⁸ You have taken from me friend and
neighbor—

darkness is my closest friend.

Discussion Questions

1. What difficulties or hardships are you currently walking through? How have you responded in the midst of these circumstances?
2. Jesus suffered during His time on earth. He was mocked, abused, rejected, and eventually killed. But it all had purpose. He did this so He could offer you eternal life in Him. How does knowing Jesus suffered make you feel?
3. When have you questioned or doubted God in your suffering and what was the result?
4. Do you tend to think about your difficult circumstances more than you actually pray about them? Explain.
5. What prayer requests have you asked God for over and over again? How do you feel toward God in the waiting? What prayers have you seen God answer?
6. In your suffering, what steps can you take toward greater honesty with God? What steps can you take to be more vulnerable with others?
7. How do you fight to believe God's good and faithful character in the midst of hard things?