

Monday, 8 August 2011

*Psalm 88:9b-12 Every day I call upon you, O LORD; I spread out my hands to you. Do you work wonders for the dead? Do the departed rise up to praise you? Selah Is your steadfast love declared in the grave, or your faithfulness in Abaddon? Are your wonders known in the darkness, or your righteousness in the land of forgetfulness?*

Lord, help my friends to realize that You do not seek harm but have allowed them and their son to make choices that have resulted in this mess. Help them to see that Your promises of a full and joy-filled life in You are still available to all; that You are ready to lift them up, walk with them through all the consequences, and that You are the Shepherd that gave His life of the flock.

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Tuesday, 9 August 2011

*Psalm 88:13-18 But I, O LORD, cry to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you. (14) O LORD, why do you cast my soul away? Why do you hide your face from me? (15) Afflicted and close to death from my youth up, I suffer your terrors; I am helpless. (16) Your wrath has swept over me; your dreadful assaults destroy me. (17) They surround me like a flood all day long; they close in on me together. (18) You have caused my beloved and my friend to shun me; my companions have become darkness.*

There will be many men this afternoon who are suffering, many as a result of their own choices and some as a result of man's cruelty to man. Give me the heart of compassion, the spirit of grace and mercy, to comfort and lead them to You, the source of all comfort; to show them that there is indeed One who is faithful and who loves them without reservation

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Wednesday, 10 August 2011

*Hebrews 11:32-40 And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains*

*and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—of whom the world was not worthy--wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.*

Lord, as I begin this Psalm, it is difficult to begin with an attitude that the Church has been faithful to Your Word for we have not. Our sin is grievous. Our pride in our accomplishments is a stench in Your nostrils. We do not call upon Your name in repentance and contrition. We are without shame.

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Thursday, 11 August 2011

*Psalm 89:11-4 A Maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite. I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations. For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness." You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: 'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.'" Selah*

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;  
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.

Sing it, my soul!

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Friday, 12 August 2011

*Psalm 89:5-10*

*Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones! For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD? Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD, God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones, and awesome above all who are around him? O LORD God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O LORD, with your faithfulness all around you? You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, you still them. You crushed*

*Rahab like a carcass; you scattered your enemies with your mighty arm.*

Lord, what evidences do I see of Your greatness and might? See routinely and without comprehension? Some are powerful and attention grabbing as in a mid-Western thunderstorm, but do I immediately react to that as evidence of the greatness and might of God? Some are delicate and beautiful as the sighting of the 1<sup>st</sup> crocus of spring but do I recognize the power that is displayed in the bringing of life to a flower?

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*Saturday, 13 August 2011*

*Psalm 89:11-18 The heavens are yours; the earth also is yours; the world and all that is in it, you have founded them. The north and the south, you have created them; Tabor and Hermon joyously praise your name. You have a mighty arm; strong is your hand, high your right hand. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; steadfast love and faithfulness go before you. Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face, who exult in your name all the day and in your righteousness are exalted. For you are the glory of their strength; by your favor our horn is exalted. For our shield belongs to the LORD, our king to the Holy One of Israel.*

All creation declares Your Name, all creation declares Your Power, All creation declares You! But Your people do not always sense and appreciate that the very definitions of such qualities as righteousness, justice, love, grace and mercy are You. For You reveal Yourself as Righteousness, as Justice, as Love, as Grace, and as Mercy. Without You, we have no concept of the content of these standards.

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*Lord's Day, 14 August 2011*

*Psalm 119:117*

*Hold me up, that I may be safe and have regard for your statutes continually!*

Without You to hold me secure, to continuously remind me of Your word, I am lost. I must listen for the quiet voice of the Spirit, and be ready and willing to obey. You do not force Yourself upon me, I must seek Your face and submit to You. Praise You and thank You for the gift of the Comforter, my Helper and my Guide.

## **VOICES TOGETHER**

*Daily Meditations from the Psalms*

*August 8-14, 2011*

Voices Together is extracted from my daily meditations and is shared in the hopes that others will be encouraged to turn to the Psalms as a rich source of guidance for prayer and meditation.

John Nunnikhoven