

VOICES TOGETHER

Daily Meditations from the Psalms & other Scriptures



April 1 to May 19 2013

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

It is published daily on the website of the Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org; along with material by other writers to encourage and assist in our walks as disciples of Jesus Christ.

These messages can also be received as daily emails by sending a request to:

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Monday, 1 April 2013 James 4:7-10

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. (Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

How often, Lord, do I get this completely backwards--submitting to the devil and going before You in pride and double-mindedness? What madness leads me to think I can stand before the LORD, God Almighty, pound my chest and declare that I am going to do it my way?

Lord, discipline and humble me

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 17 Mid-day: 119:105-112 Evening: Psalm 92

Tuesday, 2 April 2013 James 4:11-12

Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

Help me, Lord, to see those areas where a brother is failing and to pray for the Spirit to move in him. Help me to be a friend, a brother, a wise and compassionate counselor rather than a critic and a judge.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 18 Mid-day: 119:113-120 Evening: Psalm 93

Wednesday, 3 April 2013 James 4:13-17

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"-- yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that." As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. (17) So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Lord, how often I fail to acknowledge that You are in control of all things, that it is You who causes the sun to rise each morning and set each evening and everything else. I, then, must be faithful in recognizing Your hand of mercy in controlling and ordering my life. The Lord willing, I will such and such must be the watch word of my speech. It also serves to remind me that I need to be constantly alert to evaluate every word out of my mouth, every action I am about to take, to insure that You are being glorified. You are Lord and Master of my life.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 19 Mid-day: 119:123-128 Evening: Psalm 94

Thursday, 4 April 2013 Psalm 39:1-5

To the choirmaster: to Jeduthun. A Psalm of David. I said, "I will guard my ways, that I may not sin with my tongue; I will guard my mouth with a muzzle, so long as the wicked are in my presence." I was mute and silent; I held my peace to no avail, and my distress grew worse. My heart became hot within me. As I mused, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue: "O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am! Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath! Selah

Lord, as David did, so must I make a vow before You to guard my tongue even though my thoughts roil and boil within me. I must learn to weigh and measure my words, especially in the presence of unbelievers; my concern must be that I say nothing to cast disgrace upon You

Holy Name. And when I do speak, let my discourse begin with praise and thanksgiving, acknowledging that You are Lord and Master of my life

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 20 Mid-day: 119:129-136 Evening: Psalm 95

Friday, 5 April 2013 Psalm 39:6

Surely a man goes about as a shadow! Surely for nothing they are in turmoil; man heaps up wealth and does not know who will gather!

Is this where Solomon began to understand that all is vanity? Is this the recognition that man is driven by an intense desire to accumulate possessions? Might not this intensity be a sin driven warping of the *Imago Dei*, of the desire of the Almighty to create beauty and display His Glory?

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 21 Mid-day: 119:137-144 Evening: Psalm 96

Voices Together is available as an annual daily devotional and can be purchased at the [Fellowship Of Ailbe bookstore](#).

Saturday, 6 April 2013 Psalm 39:7-11

"And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you. Deliver me from all my transgressions. Do not make me the scorn of the fool! I am mute; I do not open my mouth, for it is you who have done it. Remove your stroke from me; I am spent by the hostility of your hand. When you discipline a man with rebukes for sin, you consume like a moth what is dear to him; surely all mankind is a mere breath! Selah

Lord, my hope, my certain expectation of grace and mercy is from You. I know that when I turn from You, when I willfully disobey, that You hide Your face from me unable to be in the presence of sin and corruption. But when the depth of my transgressions is acknowledged You are quick to forgive and restore. You are a gracious and loving Lord.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 22 Mid-day: 119:145-152 Evening: Psalm 97

Lord's Day, 7 April 2013 Psalm 119:76-77

Let your steadfast love comfort me according to your promise to your servant. Let your mercy come to me, that I may live; for your law is my delight.

The comfort of Your love, "Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting Arms" brings me into a place of great joy and peace. Your mercy brings me to that place, knowing that I do not deserve it, yet secure against all alarms, "safe and secure on that gentle breast." You are so good to me! Praise You, Lord.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 23 Mid-day: 119:153-160 Evening: Psalm 98

Monday, 8 April 2013 Psalm 39:12-13

"Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears! For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers. Look away from me, that I may smile again, before I depart and am no more!"

When I am in distress, Lord and cry out to You, I need to hear You, I need You and Your Comforter. I come to the point where I need to be restored and renewed, do not withhold Yourself from me.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 24 Mid-day: 119:161-168 Evening: Psalm 99

Tuesday, 9 April 2013 I John 4:1-3

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

Repeat after me: "Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God." And repeat and repeat and repeat and ... No ambiguity, no waffling, clear and understandable. Is Jesus Christ a man sent from God or not?

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 25 Mid-day: 119:169-176 Evening: Psalm 100

Wednesday, 10 April 2013 I John 4:4-6

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

More guidance--does our audience take their instruction from the Lord or from the world. A warning to me--seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. Look first to the Lord and the Word, then being properly armed and armored, I am prepared to evaluate the world's knowledge in the light of God's wisdom.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 26 Mid-day: 119:1-8 Evening: Psalm 101

Thursday, 11 April 2013 I John 4:7-12

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

If I love (serve) others, I will see God in me for His love will be perfected in me. If I love (serve) others, they will see God in me for His love is perfected in me. If I love (serve) others I will see God (the *Imago Dei*) in them for His love is perfected in me. I believe (am committed to and trust in) these statements. I will see God when His love is perfected in me.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 27 Mid-day: 119:9-16 Evening: Psalm 102

Friday, 12 April 2013 I John 4:13-18

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

You promised to send the Comforter to remind me of all You have said and to guide me into all

truth. And You have fulfilled that promise. The Holy Spirit is always with me. But You continue to give me free will, to chose to obey or to be disobedient. This too is grace, You have not turned me into a robot but have given me a desire to live in obedience to You out of gratitude. I am a new man in You. Praise You, my Lord and my Master.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 28 Mid-day: 119:17-24 Evening: Psalm 103

Saturday, 13 April 2013 I John 4:19

We love because he first loved us.

I cannot know true love, sacrificial love, until I experience Your love. God is love and proven by the Cross. Like the love of the Godhead, true sacrificial love must pour out from me to all whom I contact. Bless and guide Betty and I today as we seek to bring Your sacrificial love into a terrible situation, a marriage mired in hatred and about to bring disgrace to Your Name. Lord, that we will not take a single step today without the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 29 Mid-day: 119:25-32 Evening: Psalm 104

Lord's Day, 14 April 2013

Psalm 119:83

For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, yet I have not forgotten your statutes.

This simile of a wineskin hanging in a flue, constantly surrounded by heat and sooty, gaseous fumes, subject to the deteriorating vapors, yet maintaining resiliency. How can that be; it should become brittle and lose its ability to contain the wine. Even so I, as I am buffeted by life, will lose my ability to respond in love and patience if I do not strive to keep your word written on my heart.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 30 Mid-day: 119:33-40 Evening: Psalm 105

Monday, 15 April 2013 Psalm 40:1-3

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

Out of the miry bog, the Slough of Despond, onto the Rock of Salvation, a new song in my mouth, the Song of the Almighty, and clothed me in His righteousness. And others will be drawn to Him when they see the great transformation in me. Praise You, my Lord and Master.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 31 Mid-day: 119:41-48 Evening: Psalm 106

Tuesday, 16 April 2013 Psalm 40:4-5

Blessed is the man who makes the LORD his trust, who does not turn to the proud, to those who go astray after a lie! You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

How much clearer could it be, Lord, Your blessings are reserved for those who trust in You; they are not wasted on those whose trust is in the proud and purveyors of falsehoods. It is also clear that Your blessings are lavish and without limit. There is none more wondrous or

more generous than You are towards Your people.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 32 Mid-day: 119:49-56 Evening: Psalm 107

Wednesday, 17 April 2013 Psalm 40:6-8

In sacrifice and offering you have not delighted, but you have given me an open ear. Burnt offering and sin offering you have not required. Then I said, "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: I delight to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart."

Obedience is the sacrifice You desire, a sacrifice of joy and in joy, a sacrifice of pleasure and in pleasure, a delightful sacrifice. To know Your statutes and to delight in the obedience, to understand Your statutes and to live according to them is that sacrifice that delights You and You respond with an open ear.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 33 Mid-day: 119:57-64 Evening: Psalm 108

Thursday, 18 April 2013 Psalm 40:9-10

I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD. I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness and your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation.

Lord, You know I have no problem speaking of Your great love and mercy before great congregations, I can and do speak of Your deliverance, of Your faithfulness and Your salvation. But it is in the very small groups with those I love the most, my own family that I hold my tongue. Why, Lord, why? Forgive me and transform me.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 34 Mid-day: 119:65-72 Evening: Psalm 109

Friday, 19 April 2013 Psalm 40:11-12

As for you, O LORD, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and your faithfulness will ever preserve me! For evils have encompassed me beyond number; my iniquities have overtaken me, and I cannot see; they are more than the hairs of my head; my heart fails me.

When the focus of my mind's eye becomes my sins and iniquities, I am consumed with guilt, rampant evil and self-centeredness, but You call me to keep my thoughts on You, to see the great sacrifice and to trust in Your goodness.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 35 Mid-day: 119:73-80 Evening: Psalm 110

Saturday, 20 April 2013 Psalm 40:13-16

Be pleased, O LORD, to deliver me! O LORD, make haste to help me! Let those be put to shame and disappointed altogether who seek to snatch away my life; let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who delight in my hurt! Let those be appalled because of their shame who say to me, "Aha, Aha!" But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the LORD!"

Lord, thank You for the many around me who are quick to acknowledge Your greatness, whose speech is filled with praises and the awareness of Your goodness. What an encouragement to be with friends who prepare me for ministry to those who do not acknowledge You or who seek to destroy those who love and honor You. Praise You, Lord.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 36 Mid-day: 119:81-88 Evening: Psalm 111

Lord's Day, 21 April 2013 Psalm 119:90

Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.

The generations of men who have been recipients of Your faithfulness: Grandpa Spence, Dad, myself, Tony. Will it continue through the generations of my children and grandchildren? Not that You do not offer and make it available but will they accept? Please, Lord, help me a sinner.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 37 Mid-day: 119:89-96 Evening: Psalm 112

Monday, 22 April 2013 Psalm 40:17

As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!

When I do recognize that I am poor and needy, then You deliver the transformation that I need. Until then, while I proudly declare my own sufficiency, You let me wallow in the pigsty I have created. It is when I crucify self that salvation comes.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 38 Mid-day: 119:97-104 Evening: Psalm 113

Tuesday 23 April 2013 James 1:23-25

For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

Just as I learn by teaching so it is that I understand and believe by doing. It is the comprehension that comes for being a faithful applier of the Word of God to all aspects of my life.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 38 Mid-day: 119:105-112 Evening: Psalm 114

Wednesday, 24 April 2013 James 4:17

So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.

Now the acid test—Will I obey? Will I apply the Word of God to all aspects of my life? Knowing right from wrong and having the Holy Spirit to guide me into all truth, there is no valid excuse for disobedience.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 40 Mid-day: 119:113-120 Evening: Psalm 115

Thursday, 25 April 2013 Psalm 41:1-3

To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David. Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the LORD delivers him; he LORD protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies. The LORD sustains him on his sickbed; in his illness you restore him to full health.

Lord, as I think about what it means to consider the poor, my thoughts are directed towards You and the example You set for me. You, the Infinitely Rich One, the Unpoor, the Creator of all and the One to whom all things belong, gave it all up to rescue and redeem one who by his

deliberate actions and choices has taken himself into complete and total poverty. You offer the Ultimate Gift, Your life in exchange for mine; You died that I might live. Hallelujah, what a Savior.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 41 Mid-day: 119:121-128

Evening: Psalm 116

Friday, 26 April 2013 Psalm 41:4-6

As for me, I said, "O LORD, be gracious to me; heal me, for I have sinned against you!" My enemies say of me in malice, "When will he die, and his name perish?" And when one comes to see me, he utters empty words, while his heart gathers iniquity; when he goes out, he tells it abroad.

Lord, where have I sinned against You by neglecting Your directive to love my neighbor? Where have I not offered comfort and solace to someone who is hurting? Where have I not provided food to the hungry or visited the sick? Where have I not recognized an opportunity to advance the Kingdom by offering the Good News? Lord, the list goes on and on, but You forgive when I repent; continue the transformation.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 42 Mid-day: 119:129-136

Evening: Psalm 117

Saturday, 27 April 2013 Psalm 41:7-9

All who hate me whisper together about me; they imagine the worst for me. They say, "A deadly thing is poured out on him; he will not rise again from where he lies." Even my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted his heel against me.

It is not people who oppress me, Lord, it is various sins that still reside in me: anger, lust, pride, avarice, covetousness, greed, devotion to other gods, the list goes on and on. These come between me and You, It is only through Your grace and patience that I overcome.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 43 Mid-day: 119:137-144

Evening: Psalm 118

Lord's Day, 28 April 2013 Psalm 119:102

I do not turn aside from your rules, for you have taught me.

You gently lead me, providing instruction by word and example, interpreting through the Holy Spirit so that I am continuously reminded of all that You said and did.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 44 Mid-day: 119:145-152

Evening: Psalm 121

Monday, 29 April 2013 Psalm 40:10-12

But you, O LORD, be gracious to me, and raise me up, that I may repay them! By this I know that you delight in me: my enemy will not shout in triumph over me. But you have upheld me because of my integrity, and set me in your presence forever.

It is the transformation that I experience that demonstrates to me and to the world that You are an awesome God. As Paul said in Galatians 1:23-24 that it was the transformation from destroyer of the faithful to declarer of the faith that caused You to be glorified, so it must be with me

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 45 Mid-day: 119:153-160

Evening: Psalm 121

Tuesday, 30 April 2013 Psalm 40:13

Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.

You are the Blessed One, the Lord God Almighty, Yahweh, the Giver of Righteousness, and I, Your creation and Your slave, stand in awe and gratitude of Your boundless mercy and love.

*Daily Psalms readings:*Morning: Psalm 46 Mid-day: 119:161-168 Evening: Psalm 122

Wednesday, 1 May 2013 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.

Lord, help me to never forget the beauty of this passage and its application to every aspect of my life. Every challenge, every test and temptation is used by You to equip me for ministry. These events should bring joy to my heart, filling me with gratitude, giving thanks to You that I am worthy of suffering for Your Name's sake. Another reason why I should give thanks in all circumstances—You are equipping Your servant.

*Daily Psalms readings:*Morning: Psalm 47 Mid-day: 119:169-176 Evening: Psalm 123

Thursday, 2 May 2013 Psalm 42:1-3

To the choirmaster. A Maskil of the Sons of Korah. As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me all the day long, "Where is your God?"

Lord, I hunger and thirst to know You more deeply, to know that when someone looks at me with the question on their mind, "Where is Your God?" they will immediately see Your presence in me, the transforming power of Your Holy Spirit working in my life.

*Daily Psalms readings:*Morning: Psalm 48 Mid-day: 119:1-8 Evening: Psalm 124

Friday, 3 May 2013 Psalm 42:4

These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God with glad shouts and songs of praise, a multitude keeping festival.

To join with the brothers in the prison while we may not be a multitude, is indeed a joy-filled evening. Anytime I can enter into worship in spirit and in truth is a soul lifting experience.

*Daily Psalms readings:*Morning: Psalm 49 Mid-day: 119:9-16 Evening: Psalm 125

Saturday, 4 May 2013 Psalm 42:5-6

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God. My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

Lord, for those times when I am separated from my familiar surroundings or distraught by problems, all I need to do is turn the eye of my mind to You and to Your faithfulness. How can I be depressed by the sin and confusion that is rampant around me when I know that You are in control of all things. Let the politicians rant and rave, casting all sorts of charges, counter-charges, lies and rebuttals; I am a citizen of the Kingdom of God and not of this world.

Hallelujah!

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 50

Mid-day: 119:17-24 Evening: Psalm 126

Lord's Day, 5 May 2013 Psalm 119:108

Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your rules.

A freewill offering—an offering freely given, an offering of praise lifted up to You in the congregation.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 51

Mid-day: 119:25-32 Evening: Psalm 127

Monday, 6 May 2013 Psalm 42:7-8

Deep calls to deep at the roar of your waterfalls; all your breakers and your waves have gone over me. By day the LORD commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.

As the problems have been mounting recently, problems on all fronts with equipment problems from water heaters to computers, with the sudden transfer of the majority of our men to another prison, financial and health concerns, family issues, I sometimes feel that I am under a waterfall of cascading trials. But yet Your steadfast love is indeed with me by day through all these woes and You have provided me with sweet sleep in Your arms each night. Thank You for Your song of deliverance.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 52

Mid-day: 119:33-40 Evening: Psalm 128

Tuesday, 7 May 2013 Psalm 42:9-11

I say to God, my rock: "Why have you forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?" As with a deadly wound in my bones, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me all the day long, "Where is your God?" Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

Lord, I have two dear friends who are going to court this morning to watch and wait while their son is indicted on drug dealing charges. Surely those around them who know of their faith are wondering, "Where is their God now? Why is He allowing something like this to happen to these people if He is supposed to love and care for them?" Even they may be wondering this morning as they set out on that long trip, where You are in all this.

My prayer is that they are able to praise You, to recognize Your Hand at work in their son's life and in theirs as You support and carry them through this season of distress. That in all this evil and filth, You will be glorified according to the picture painted in Ezekiel 36:22-23, 36 Lord, that through this, my friends can once again praise You, their salvation and their God.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 53

Mid-day: 119:41-48 Evening: Psalm 129

Wednesday, 8 May 2013 Acts 7:54-60

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth at him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the

feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

Lord, that I would receive that same clarity of vision that Stephen had; to see You standing at the right hand of the Father interceding for me. That that vision would be with me to sustain and encourage me in my time of trial as it did Stephen.

*Daily Psalms readings:*Morning: Psalm 54 Mid-day: 119:49-56 Evening: Psalm 130

Thursday, 9 May 2013 Psalm 43:1-2

Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me! For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you rejected me? Why do I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

Lord, I must not be in mourning when the Evil One assaults me, You do not reject me but are with me to guide me when I listen and obey, to hold my hand and instruct me as I timidly step out in faith. Why do I let the oppression of the Evil One frighten and depress me? I must rejoice that I am blessed to suffer for Your Namesakes.

*Daily Psalms readings:*Morning: Psalm 55 Mid-day: 119:57-64 Evening: Psalm 131

Friday, 10 May 2013 Psalm 43:3-4

Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling! Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God.

My joy is in Your Presence, my exceeding joy is to praise you; it is Your Truth and Your Light that leads me into the Presence and that casts me down in worship and causes me to erupt in praise. Hallelujah.

*Daily Psalms readings:*Morning: Psalm 56 Mid-day: 119:65-72 Evening: Psalm 132
Saturday, 11 May 2013

Saturday, 11 May 2013 Psalm 43:5

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God.

What reason do I have to be sad? My hope is in the Lord. What excuse do I have for enduring the turmoil of depression? Praise the Lord, His mercy extends forever. He alone is my salvation, He alone is my God. It is well, it is well with my soul.

*Daily Psalms readings:*Morning: Psalm 57 Mid-day: 119:73-80 Evening: Psalm 133

Lord's Day, 12 May 2013 Psalm 119:117

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

To walk in the light of Your Word, continually and without stumbling. Now that is a goal to be treasured and sought after with all my heart, mind, soul and strength. Lead me, Holy Spirit

*Daily Psalms readings:*Morning: Psalm 58 Mid-day: 119:81-88 Evening: Psalm 134

Monday, 13 May 2013 Revelations 3:1-6

"And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. "I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Remember what we have received, "the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints" Jude 3b and repent. When will we learn? When will we be driven to our knees in shame and with heart rending sobs declare that we have sinned against You in not carrying the Gospel faithfully and in its entirety to the lost?

When am I going to fall to my knees, repenting of those times I have been too cowardly fearing the scorn of men over the wrath of God?

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 59 Mid-day: 119:89-96 Evening: Psalm 135

Tuesday, 14 May 2013 Psalm 44:1-3

To the choirmaster. A Maskil of the Sons of Korah. O God, we have heard with our ears, our fathers have told us, what deeds you performed in their days, in the days of old: you with your own hand drove out the nations, but them you planted; you afflicted the peoples, but them you set free; for not by their own sword did they win the land, nor did their own arm save them, but your right hand and your arm, and the light of your face, for you delighted in them.

O, Lord, as the Psalmist says in Psalm 103:17-18, Your promises flow to those in whom You delight. And those are the one who fear You and who seek to obey Your commandments. How can I expect blessings when I am disobedient? No, I must expect correction and discipline, also because You love me and seek to be able to bestow Your blessings upon me.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 60 Mid-day: 119:97-104 Evening: Psalm 136

Wednesday, 15 May 2013 Psalm 44:4-8

You are my King, O God; ordain salvation for Jacob! Through you we push down our foes; through your name we tread down those who rise up against us. For not in my bow do I trust, nor can my sword save me. But you have saved us from our foes and have put to shame those who hate us. In God we have boasted continually, and we will give thanks to your name forever. Selah

It is a hard lesson to learn Lord, that I cannot trust in my own strength and wisdom. It is through You I defeat those who rise up against me, the specter of discouragement, the miasma of discontent, the black cloud of depression; all succumb to the power of Your salvation. Praise You, my Lord and Master.

Daily Psalms readings: Morning: Psalm 61 Mid-day: 119:105-112 Evening: Psalm 137

Friday, 17 May 2013 Psalm 44:13-16

You have made us the taunt of our neighbors, the derision and scorn of those around us. You have made us a byword among the nations, a laughingstock among the peoples. All day long my disgrace is before me, and shame has covered my face at the sound of the taunter and reviler, at the sight of the enemy and the avenger.

The state of the Church today in this country is a source of derision and scorn by those outside the Church. And it is no wonder when those in leadership live lives of defiance of Your Commandments and Your Word. It is no wonder when professing Christians live lives that are identical in purpose to those around them. It is no wonder when the Church focuses upon management and marketing practices drawn from the world to advance its mission. It is no wonder when that mission is defined by the same standards as the world about is, standards of membership and attendance. When will we drop to our knees and cry out to You, "We have sinned in Your eyes, we have not been faithful to our calling, forgive us, O Lord"

*Daily Psalms readings:*Morning: Psalm 63 Mid-day: 119:121-128 Evening: Psalm 139

Saturday, 18 May 2013 Psalm 44:17-19

All this has come upon us, though we have not forgotten you, and we have not been false to your covenant. Our heart has not turned back, nor have our steps departed from your way; (19) yet you have broken us in the place of jackals and covered us with the shadow of death.

Lord, I have to realize that no matter what comes upon me in the way of trial or temptation that You are with me, Your hand never leaves me, Your Spirit never deserts me, I am always secure in Your grace and mercy. I must never forget that You will lead me through the barren places and through the fiery pits.

*Daily Psalms readings:*Morning: Psalm 64 Mid-day: 119:129-136 Evening: Psalm 140

Lord's Day, 19 May 2013 Psalm 119:124

Deal with your servant according to your steadfast love, and teach me your statutes.

To deal with me according to Your steadfast love is to deal with me in justice, mercy, and grace. It is the way I learn obedience to Your statutes, the way I learn to absorb Your Word into my life.

*Daily Psalms readings:*Morning: Psalm 65 Mid-day: 119:137-144 Evening: Psalm 141
