

12 I will meditate also of all thy  
 work, and talk of thy doings.  
 13 Thy way, O God, is in the sanc-  
 tuary: who is so great a God as our  
 God?  
 14 Thou art the God that doest  
 wonders: thou hast declared thy  
 strength among the people.  
 15 Thou hast with thine arm re-  
 deemed thy people, the sons of Ja-  
 coh and Joseph. Se'lah.  
 16 The waters saw thee, O God,  
 the waters saw thee; they were  
 afraid: the depths also were trou-  
 bled.  
 17 The clouds poured out water:  
 the skies sent out a sound: thine ar-  
 rows also went abroad.  
 18 The voice of thy thunder was in  
 the heaven: the lightnings lightened  
 the world: the earth trembled and  
 shook.  
 19 Thy way is in the sea, and thy  
 path in the great waters, and thy  
 footsteps are not known.  
 20 Thou leddest thy people like a  
 flock by the hand of Moses and Aar-

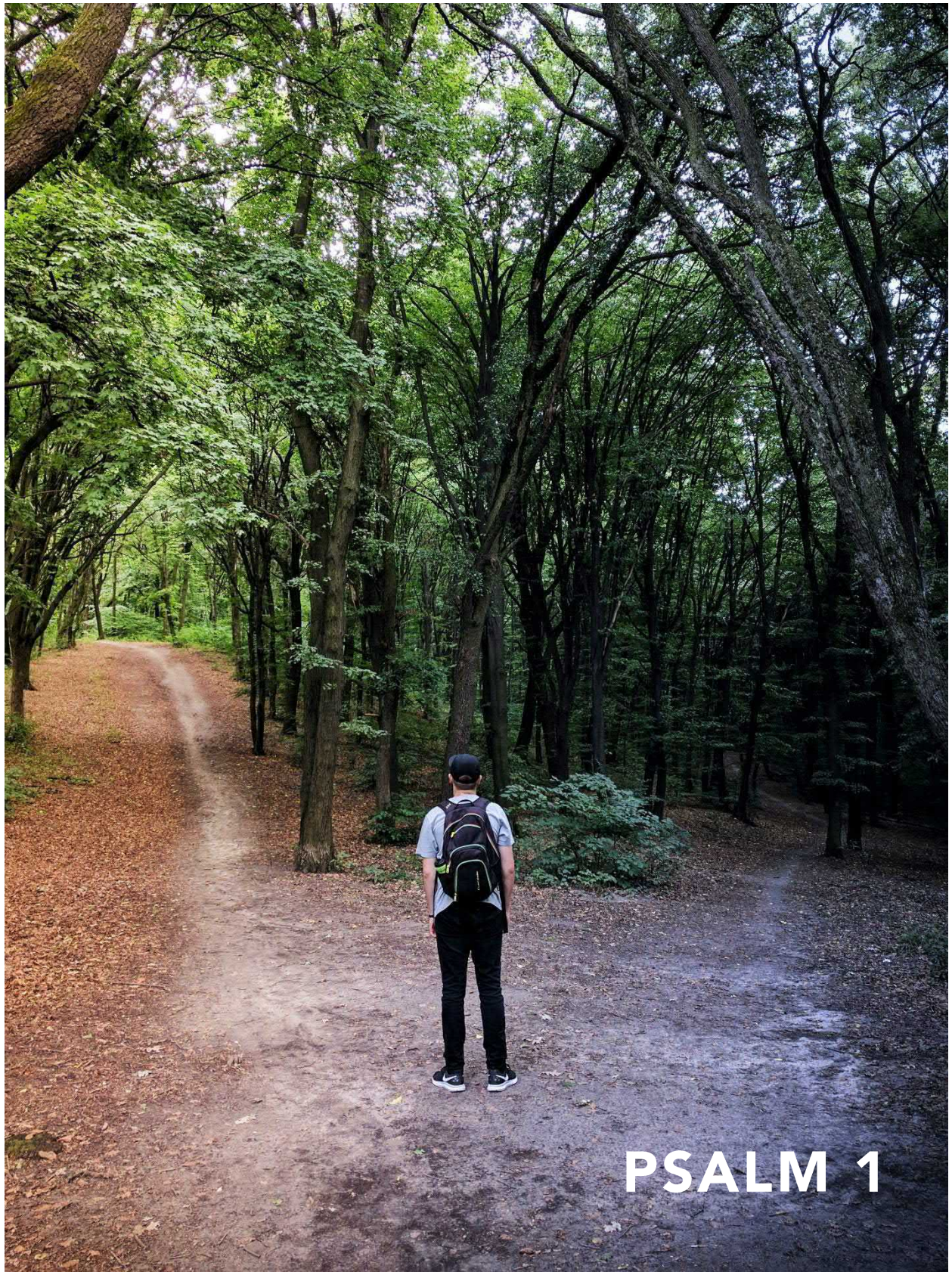
PSALM 78  
 Maschil of Asaph  
 Hear, O my people, to my law:  
 open my mouth in a par-  
 utter dark sayings of old:  
 we have heard  
 our fathers have  
 not hide

Psalm 78  
Maschil of Asaph  
Hear, O my people, to my law:  
Open your ears to the words of  
my mouth in a parable.  
We have sayings of old;  
we have heard our fathers have  
told of hidden things.

ear, O my people, to my law:  
open your ears to the words of  
his mouth.  
open my mouth in a par-  
able, utter dark sayings of old:  
we have heard  
our fathers have  
not hid them

ear, O my people, to my law:  
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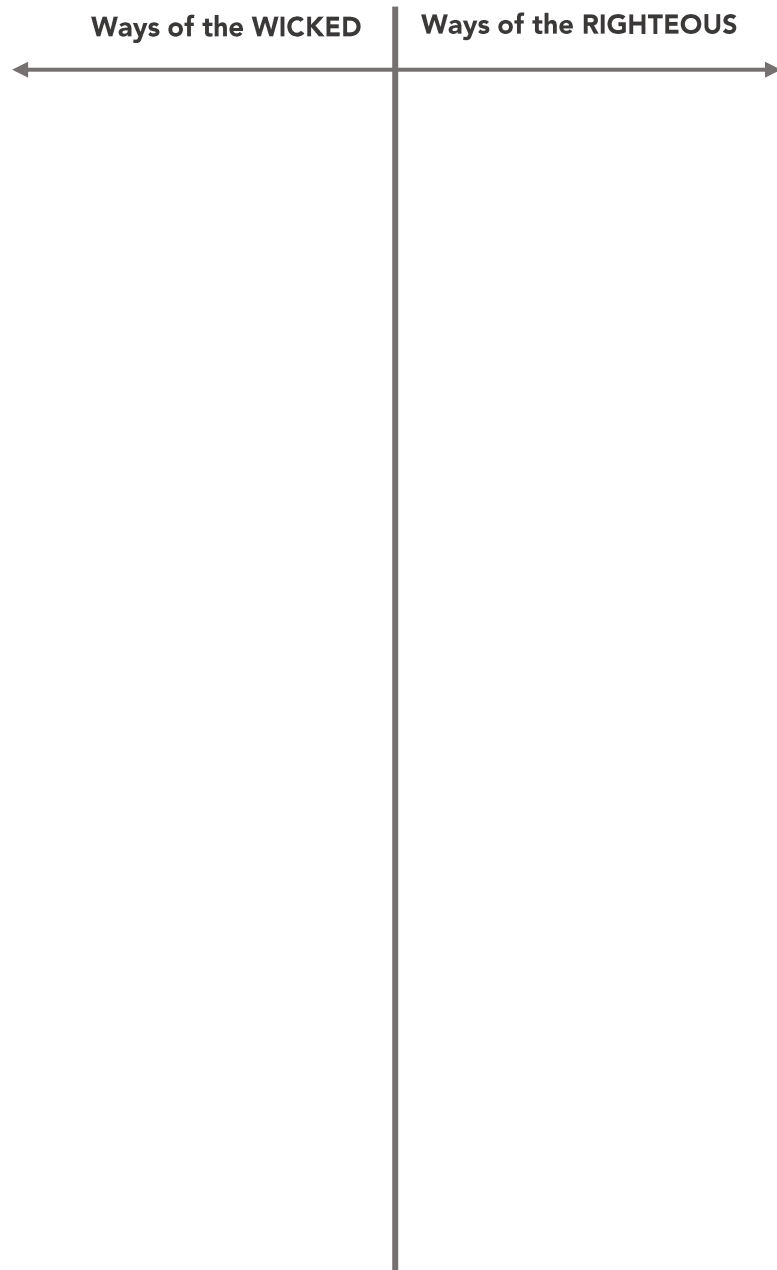
**PSALM 1**



# PSALM 1 – CHOOSING YOUR PATH

The world has modernized the word WICKED. The world now uses "wicked" to be mean intense, or cool, or even excellent, "that is wicked cool." Or, "He is wicked smart." However, the Lord has something else to say about that. He has an altogether different view of the wicked. There are two ways to live in this world - God's way and the world's way. We need to make sure we know the difference.

How happy is the one who does not walk in the advice of the wicked, stand in the pathway with sinners, or sit in the company of mockers! Instead, his delight is in the Lord's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night. He is like a tree planted beside flowing streams that bears its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. The wicked are not like this; instead, they are like chaff that the wind blows away. Therefore the wicked will not stand up in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous. For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked leads to ruin.



# PSALM 77



I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, and he will hear me. I sought the Lord in my day of trouble.

My hands were continually lifted up all night long; I refused to be comforted.

I think of God; I groan; I meditate; my spirit becomes weak. *Selah*

You have kept me from closing my eyes; I am troubled and cannot speak. I consider days of old, years long past. At night, I remember my music; I meditate in my heart, and my spirit ponders.

"Will the Lord reject forever and never again show favor? Has his faithful love ceased forever? Is his promise at an end for all generations? Has God forgotten to be gracious?

Has he in anger withheld his compassion?" *Selah*

So I say, "I am grieved that the right hand of the Most High has changed." I will remember the Lord's works; yes, I will remember your ancient wonders. I will reflect on all you have done and meditate on your actions.

God, your way is holy. What god is great like God? You are the God who works wonders; you revealed your strength among the peoples. With power, you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. *Selah*

The water saw you, God. The water saw you; it trembled. Even the depths shook. The clouds poured down water. The storm clouds thundered; your arrows flashed back and forth. The sound of your thunder was in the whirlwind; lightning lit up the world. The earth shook and quaked. Your way went through the sea and your path through the vast water, but your footprints were unseen. You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

# PSALM 77 – WHERE IS GOD IN MY CRISIS

The sun rose that morning in full blaze. Dense heat blew heavy through the sanctuary as hearts, weighted with sorrow, melted on the pews. Tragedy struck a faithful family in our small farming community and pain wrenched the congregation like a vise. Gathering his black robe, the preacher candidate put aside his sermon, rose to the podium and prayed. Pastor Bharat Bhooshan blew upon that Illinois village like a summer shower, watering its pain and sorrows with a prayer that sat Jesus right in the center of it all. His intercession stilled and calmed, watering weathered souls with words of life that fell on that fallow ground under an open sky.

Four hundred years passed from the time Joseph rose to power and Israel's release from slavery in Egypt. Four centuries of scarred backs pushed and pulled the crushing commands of slave lords' whips. Suffering beyond imagination preceded Pharaoh's surrender to Moses' demand to, "Let my people go". God gained Israel's freedom in that moment, but a hardened heart drove Pharaoh to madness, pressing the Israelites into the Red Sea with his army, ready to slaughter all in their way.

Facing certain doom, the Israelites were stilled by Moses' directive, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today." (Ex 14:13) Then Moses raised his staff and God parted the waters.

However, the initial verses in this Psalm clearly wrestle with sensing the loss of God's presence – agonizing, desperate cries lose sight of God's good work. Asaph continues to rehearse what the Israelites knew from oral tradition. Their forefathers carried the stories of salvation that bled truth into hearts and minds, reminding them that the miracle of the parting of the Red Sea was different. They **SAW** the sea convulsing. They **HEARD** the thunder in the whirlwind. They **SAW** the earth trembling and the mighty waters part. And as they passed through in safety, they **SAW** Pharaoh's army engulfed in the flood,

11 I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago.

12 I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds." Psalm 77

never to harness chariot or spear as a threat again. Asaph proclaims this treasured memory...

16 The waters saw you, God, the waters saw you and writhed; the very depths were convulsed.

17 The clouds poured down water, the heavens resounded with thunder; your arrows flashed back and forth.

18 Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind, your lightning lit up the world; the earth trembled and quaked.

19 Your path led through the sea, your way through the mighty waters, though your footprints were not seen. Psalm 77

The witness of the parting stands as the single most significant miracle both physically and spiritually for the Jews, pointing to the salvation of the future Christ. This Psalm makes a loud cry to “Wake up!”

### **REMEMBER THE MIRACLE OF SALVATION**

**TOWARD US!** Despair may overwhelm, but as Paul would write regarding his own despair almost 1500 years later, “This happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope...” (2 Cor 1:9-10)

And as God in His kindnesses continues the work He’s begun in our own lives, our “wake up” miracles are our personal reminders.

When the accident happened to close friends of my parents, our church community froze with grief that hovered like a cold, wet blanket. This church family, the church my Swiss great-grandparents adopted when they immigrated in the mid 1800’s, neglected to embrace the sweetness of a Savior who longed to gather them “as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings.” (Matt 23:37) These dairymen brought their families to a new world that closed the doors around Sunday morning services, keeping spiritual practice and daily chores in separate rooms. Adults continued to live skeleton lives through the generations, walking “dead in their transgressions and sins”. (Eph 2:1)

My prayers for the people in my hometown multiplied, but I knew that without a pastor who loved our Savior the possibility to turn our community upside down would be slim.

So, when the search committee came back and shared that they found someone who was interested in bringing Jesus to our small village parish, I was ecstatic. What we didn’t know was that he was from India, his wife wore a sari, and homemade chapattis would become a regular dish offered if you happened to come over unannounced.

On the Sunday of his visit, Pastor Bhooshan not only fell into the greatest tragedy our congregation had ever experienced, but his gospel-centered prayer pierced deeply into every desperate soul in that packed Sunday service. The tragic loss of life in that horrific car crash was met by a Sovereign God who had placed their times and habitations perfectly for His mercy to be revealed. At the end of his sermon, he and his wife were excused and the vote taken. His confirmation was just shy of unanimous.

The miracle of grace confirming Pastor Bhooshan to our village church cemented the truth that “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age.” (Mark 10:29-30) By committing his life unashamedly to the gospel of Jesus Christ, Pastor Bhooshan gained that and more. He became the answer to a prayer of a young woman who longed for her family and community to experience the sweetness of a Savior that was hers. His boldness to venture into unfriendly territory led him not only to desperate hearts but also to a harvest of souls waiting to be won for Jesus. My Father was one of the first to proclaim Jesus as his Savior under his teaching.

This is my Red Sea story.

When I was asked to write this article, I was coming out of a depth of despair that was due part to the pandemic, but mostly a lack of faith through overwhelming trials. Asaph commemorates Psalm 77 to Jeduthun. Perhaps he also experienced despair that needed to “wake up”. Our own faith grows as the narratives in scripture are embraced. “The things that were written in the past were written to teach us that through endurance and the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.” (Rom 15:4) Bringing back to our remembrance the miracles in our own lives sits Jesus in the center of it all for us.

It is difficult to comprehend how the miracle of a man from an Indian culture and a heavy accent could gain acceptance into a historically white farm village. But God, in his perfect sovereign will, did this to demonstrate His power, moving men’s hearts beyond the impossible.

And as the Israelites passed through on dry ground, God led his people “like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.” Psalm 77:20

He is to be fully depended on.

By Lynda Brill



# PSALM 73





## PSALM 73 – DOES IT PAY TO SERVE GOD

God is indeed good to Israel, to the pure in heart.  
But as for me, my feet almost slipped; my steps nearly went astray.  
For I envied the arrogant; I saw the prosperity of the wicked.  
They have an easy time until they die, and their bodies are well fed.  
They are not in trouble like others; they are not afflicted like most people.  
Therefore, pride is their necklace, and violence covers them like a garment.  
Their eyes bulge out from fatness; the imaginations of their hearts run wild.  
They mock, and they speak maliciously; they arrogantly threaten oppression.  
They set their mouths against heaven, and their tongues strut across the earth.  
Therefore, his people turn to them and drink in their overflowing words. The wicked say, "How can God know? Does the Most High know everything?" Look at them—the wicked! They are always at ease, and they increase their wealth.

Did I purify my heart and wash my hands in innocence for nothing? For I am afflicted all day long and punished every morning. If I had decided to say these things aloud, I would have betrayed your people. When I tried to understand all this, it seemed hopeless until I entered God's sanctuary.  
Then I understood their destiny.

Indeed, you put them in slippery places; you make them fall into ruin.  
How suddenly they become a desolation!  
They come to an end, swept away by terrors.  
Like one waking from a dream, Lord, when arising, you will despise their image.  
When I became embittered and my innermost being was wounded,  
I was stupid and didn't understand; I was an unthinking animal toward you.  
Yet I am always with you; you hold my right hand.  
You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me up in glory.  
Who do I have in heaven but you? And I desire nothing on earth but you.  
My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart, my portion forever.

Those far from you will certainly perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.  
But as for me, God's presence is my good. I have made the Lord GOD my refuge,  
so I can tell about all you do.

Why do those who reject God seem to be doing really well? They look to have it all together and are proud of it. In those times when brothers and sisters are struggling, confused, or doubt Him, we should encourage rather than judge. Despite how things look to us now, we know the rest of the story for those who reject Jesus and run after the world. It is a tragic end. Those who reject God will have to pay the price. Desolation is complete emptiness and destruction, anguished misery and loneliness. We need to set our sights on Him, His glory, and the prize of knowing Him. Our blessings will not compare with anything that this world can offer – we need to keep the faith. Rally around the family of God and try to help him through the tunnel to the light at the other side.

How great is our God that he does not shame us for being weak or tempted. He knows we face those moments. He does not deny the feelings you are having. Instead, He shows us how to see the truth of His salvation.

Describe in your own words any doubts or struggles you have. What challenges in your past seemed to overtake God's promises?

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What truths does God encourage you to rehearse and remember to re-gain your faith in His plan.

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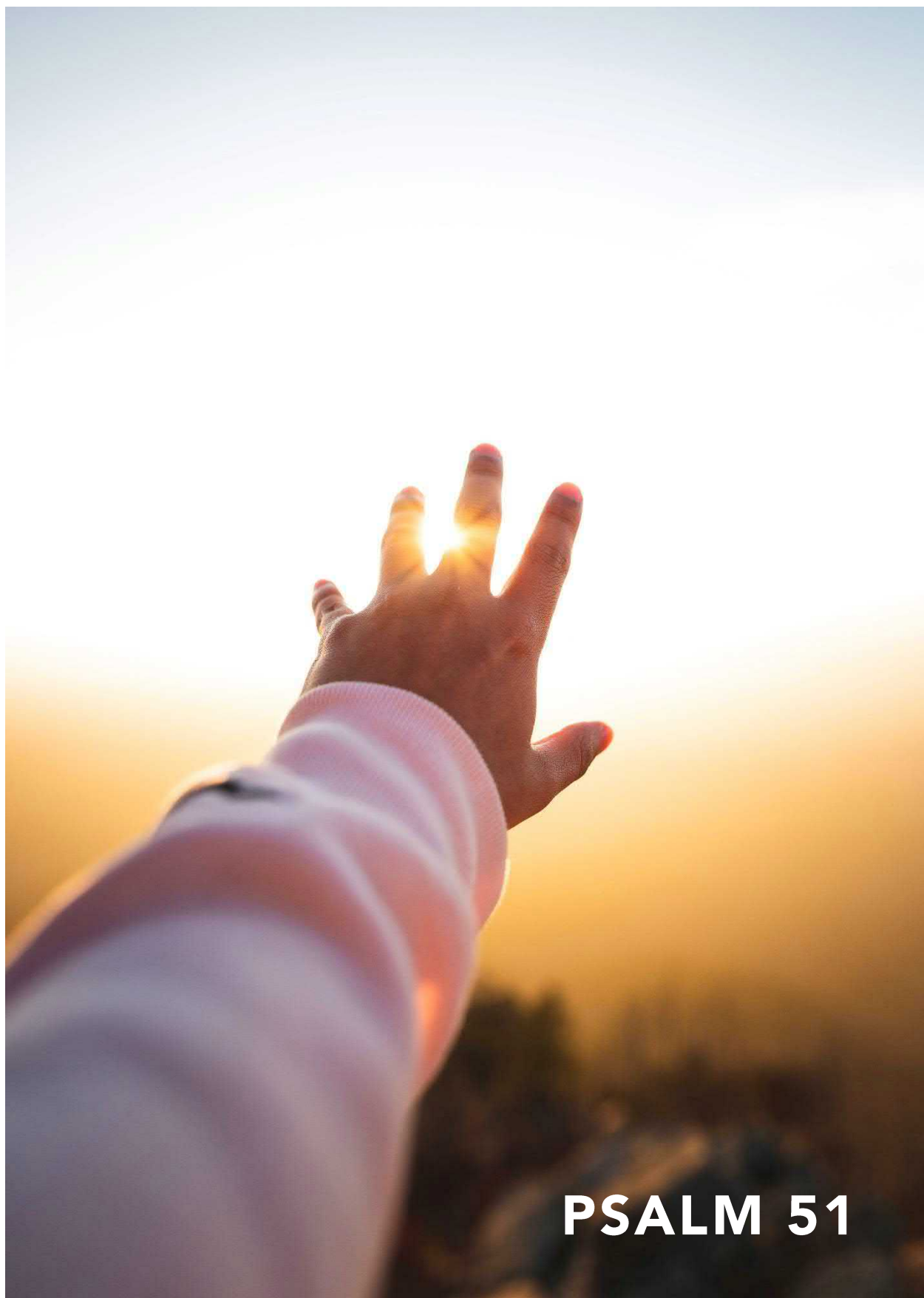
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**PSALM 51**



# PSALM 51 – GOD, I’VE BLOWN IT AGAIN. PLEASE RESTORE ME.

Be gracious to me, God, according to your faithful love; according to your abundant compassion, blot out my rebellion. Completely wash away my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. For I am conscious of my rebellion, and my sin is always before me. Against you—you alone—I have sinned and done this evil in your sight. So you are right when you pass sentence; you are blameless when you judge. Indeed, I was guilty when I was born; I was sinful when my mother conceived me.

Surely you desire integrity in the inner self, and you teach me wisdom deep within. Purify me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Turn your face away from my sins and blot out all my guilt.

God, create a clean heart for me and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore the joy of your salvation to me, and sustain me by giving me a willing spirit. Then I will teach the rebellious your ways, and sinners will return to you.

Save me from the guilt of bloodshed, God – God of my salvation – and my tongue will sing of your righteousness. Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. You do not want a sacrifice, or I would give it; you are not pleased with a burnt offering. The sacrifice pleasing to God is a broken spirit. You will not despise a broken and humbled heart, God.

In your good pleasure, cause Zion to prosper; build the walls of Jerusalem. Then you will delight in righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

## 8 Steps in Psalm 51 For Real Repentance

**1. Define the sin.** We need to understand what sin is. We need to agree with God that our sin is what it is. David is making it clear that his sin is deep - there is no minimizing or excusing it.

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**2. Appeal to God's mercy.** David appeals to God's character; His mercy and covenant relationship. When we come before God in repentance, we do so on the basis of his covenant with us through Christ.

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**3. Avoid defensiveness and see God rightly.** Yes our sin hurts others, and repenting to those people is important. But our sin is ultimately against God. It's His ways that we have failed to live up to, and His image-bearers whom we hurt.

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**4. Look to Jesus.** David knows he needs purification and he knows that blood alone can make him whiter than snow. He doesn't know just how it will be done fully through Jesus. But we do.

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**5. Ask God to break you and heal you.** David was a broken man; he just didn't fully realize it until God sent Nathan. Like a doctor resetting a fracture, it is God who breaks, God who sets, and God who heals.

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**6. Be comforted by the Spirit.** "How can God love me? Surely I'm not really a Christian." Take comfort in knowing that the very grief you're experiencing is a sign that you have the Spirit of God working in you, causing you to hate what God hates.

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**7. Rejoice and proclaim truth.** We're inclined to wallow in our sin and draw back from serving others because we think we're unworthy. David says the joy of forgiveness for sin should compel us to speak of that good news with everyone.

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**8. Resolve to obey.** We can check all the boxes, do all the steps, and say all the right words. But if our hearts plan to sin in the same way again, then grace isn't truly taking root. What God desires is a broken, contrite and truly repentant heart.

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# PSALM 46





# PSALM 46 – GOD, I'M SCARED

God is the true "master of the universe" and maker of all things. Our God is much bigger than anything, anyone, or any danger we can face. Yet, we fear. We see the things and people that threaten us and we are scared. Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "Courage is not the absence of fear but rather the assessment that something else is more important than fear."

The Lord is so gracious to us in giving us examples of how to handle our fear. In His omniscience, He knew we would struggle to trust Him. He gave us Psalm 46 to encourage us in trust Him. He's got you. He's got your circumstances. He's got it all.

God is our refuge and strength, a helper who is always found in times of trouble. Therefore we will not be afraid, though the earth trembles and the mountains topple into the depths of the seas, though its water roars and foams and the mountains quake with its turmoil. Selah There is a river— its streams delight the city of God, the holy dwelling place of the Most High. God is within her; she will not be toppled. God will help her when the morning dawns. Nations rage, kingdoms topple; the earth melts when he lifts his voice. The LORD of Armies is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. Come, see the works of the LORD, who brings devastation on the earth. He makes wars cease throughout the earth. He shatters bows and cuts spears to pieces; he sets wagons ablaze. "Stop fighting, and know that I am God, exalted among the nations, exalted on the earth." The LORD of Armies is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

# POSITIVE

I can't be positive.

Dagi and I are sitting, tense, at opposite corners of our bed, the gray-blue comforter between us tousled like a stormy sea. We have just opened the results of our COVID-19 tests.

I can't be positive. I'm almost 40-weeks pregnant with our first child. I've read that pregnant women are more likely to require hospitalization, ICU admission, medical ventilation. If I'm positive, there's a chance Dagi could become positive too. He may not be able to be with me during our child's birth. I imagine myself in the delivery room, trembling with the most intense agony of my life, wheezing through a mask – alone. God would not toss His beloved children into such uncertain waves.

It is one of those moments – bone-jittery, soul-lurching – when it feels like everything stable and solid melts into a slippery pool, or a wild sea you could drown in. When the floor and ceiling somehow shift places. When the mountain peaks, the most secure thing you can think of, sink into ocean foam.

Twenty twenty was that kind of year. The year COVID-19 shuttered the globe. The year Beirut exploded. The year of 53,000 wildfires. The year of so many tropical storms, meteorologists exhausted their list of official names. The year of fraught elections. The year the world erupted with raised fists after American police killed another, and another, and another human being of color. The year my friend lost her husband to cancer. The year my Grandpa died.

This year was supposed to be different; a kind of magical door we would all pass through into a world that we could make sense of again. But rioters stormed the Capitol building and a seventeen-year-old killed six of his family members on the northeast side and I was COVID-positive and pregnant. And, I was COVID-19 positive and pregnant.

I isolated myself in our bedroom, gripped in the gray-blue sheets like wind-stirred seas. I wasted too much time distracting myself with flipping pages and flinging texts and staring into the shifting screen of my phone as if Google had the answers.

It's as if making my own motion, my own commotion, could somehow slow down the world's.

But here is what I should have told myself to do: be still. Let the phone fall. Let my burdens fall. Let myself fall on my knees. Fall, gently, by a quiet river where God dwells.

Here is what I need to tell myself now, when the headlines wave about my head and threaten to drown me. When the mass shootings of Atlanta and Boulder and Chicago that seem far away shake my own city, just twenty minutes from my kitchen table. When Myanmar and Syria and Ethiopia are shaking. When the whole world seems to be shaking. As darkness erases the daylight, I double-check our doors are locked – again – hide myself in Dagi's arms to whisper like a child that I am afraid.

**Be still and know God is God.** I AM is God. The One who is, was, and will be God is God. The God who knit together my skin in the womb. The God who spoke stars and seas into being. The God who gave His own Son to be bloodied and buried out of a limitless, wild, and ineffable love. The Son whose death defeated death and evil for all time. Whose life gives life.

After another mass shooting, **be still.**

After another police officer kills another human being of color, **be still.**

After another peace treaty is broken, **be still.**

After COVID closes another casket, **be still.**

After another and another and another dark night, **be still.**

He is still God. God, the ever-present, ever-loving One. One in whose arms I can rest still.

**STILL.**

By Elise Teegene



# PSALM 23



"The Lord is my shepherd..."	He is my leader.
"He makes me lie down in green pastures."	He is my provider.
"He leads me beside still waters..."	He stills my anxieties.
"He restores my soul..."	He is my emotional healer.
"He leads me on paths of righteousness for his name's sake."	He is my moral teacher.
"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil."	He is my protector.
"...for you are with me, your rod and staff, they comfort me."	He is my guide and merciful discipliner.
"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies."	He eliminates/ eases my fears.
"You anoint my head with oil."	He is my physical healer.
"My cup overflows..."	He plans for my needs.
"Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life."	He blesses me.
"And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."	He is my stable safe place.

As a person with an alcoholic – absent father, Psalm 23 is a revelation. It outlines how our Heavenly Father behaves toward us. Recently, I reread this psalm and meditated for many days on its meaning. I analyzed the lines as they relate to the care a father provides his children/ I reflected on my own dad and how his care and how he “fathered” me. When I think on what these verses say about the character of God, I am thankful. He gives us a picture of what loving care actually looks like.

My own father failed in every single line. He should have helped me develop a sense of value and well-being. Instead, he was either missing or a negative influence. I grew to rely on myself. Or, I was eager to trust some who didn’t have my best interest in mind. Earthy fathers have the awesome responsibility to literally show the image of the heavenly father to their kids; a living representative of the divine. A man led by the Spirit can make it easy for his kids to trust God. I still grapple with the full extent of the Father’s love and care for me because I did not experience a self-sacrificing father. I am startled when, in moments of self-reliance and anxiety, the Lord reminds me that He has already planned for my future.

I am valued. I am important. I am loved. Psalm 23 is a beautiful reminder that “I shall not want” in any way. He has provided for all of my needs because He cares.

By Brandi Dennis

A man doesn't whine at his losses,  
A man doesn't whimper and fret,  
Or rail at the weight of his crosses  
And ask life to rear him a pet.

A man doesn't grudgingly labor  
Or look upon toil as a blight;  
A man doesn't sneer at his  
neighbor  
Or sneak from a cause that is right.

A man doesn't sulk when another  
Succeeds where his efforts have  
failed;

Doesn't keep all his praise for the  
brother

Whose glory is publicly hailed;  
And pass by the weak and the  
humble

As though they were not of his  
clay;

A man doesn't ceaselessly grumble  
When things are not going his way.

A man looks on woman as tender  
And gentle, and stands at her side  
At all times to guard and defend  
her,

And never to scorn or deride.

A man looks on life as a mission.

To serve, just so far as he can;

A man holds his noblest ambition

On earth is to live as a man.

A Man by Edgar Guest





## PSALM 90

# PSALM 90 – ETERNAL GOD, MORTAL ME

This original artwork by our own Sarah Grace Wiggins tells of God being the one and only creator and savior; the source of all people's in all their colors. All His image bearers have immense value, worth, and purpose. However, in a sin – ravaged world, we see division, brother against brother. We see oppression and the fight to right those wrongs. He has called us to be a light to the world, a bright light against the darkness. We must not lose heart. We serve the Lord who brought the world into existence. "Lord, you have been our refuge in every generation. Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from eternity to eternity, you are God."

"The older you get, the quieter you become. Life humbles you so deeply as you age. You realize how much nonsense you've wasted time on." Only what is done for Him will last. Our time here is a vapor, and the only way for you or I to have any impact is to do God's work.

Lord, you have been our refuge in every generation.

Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from eternity to eternity, you are God. You return mankind to the dust, saying, "Return, descendants of Adam." For in your sight a thousand years are like yesterday that passes by, like a few hours of the night. You end their lives; they sleep. They are like grass that grows in the morning - in the morning it sprouts and grows; by evening, it withers and dries up.

For we are consumed by your anger; we are terrified by your wrath. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. For all our days ebb away under your wrath; we end our years like a sigh.

Our lives last seventy years or, if we are strong, eighty years. Even the best of them are struggle and sorrow; indeed, they pass quickly and we fly away. Who understands the power of your anger? Your wrath matches the fear that is due you. Teach us to number our days carefully so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts. Lord—how long? Turn and have compassion on your servants.

Satisfy us in the morning with your faithful love so that we may shout with joy and be glad all our days. Make us rejoice for as many days as you have humbled us, for as many years as we have seen adversity. Let your work be seen by your servants, and your splendor by their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be on us; establish for us the work of our hands - establish the work of our hands!

# PSALM 150





**NOW WHETHER  
I FEEL IT OR NOT  
I'LL PRAISE YOU  
WITH ALL THAT I GOT  
YOU ARE MY GOD  
AND MY ROCK  
SOMEONE  
TURN THAT PRAISE UP**

PLANETBOOM – PRAISE OVER PROBLEMS

# PSALM 150 – TURN THE PRAISE UP



**HALAL**

What does it mean to **PRAISE** Jesus? When the Hebrews heard that word, “**HALAL**” their understanding was to celebrate with **EXUBERANCE**, **CLAMOROUS**, **LOUD**, to boast in the LORD! It was intended to be intense.

It was **CRAZY PRAISE!** It was to **SHINE!**

It was supposed to be an outrageous tribute to the only one who actually is worth it. Brass, string, wind, and percussion must all join in the praise of a God so great. No instrument left out. Sometimes we can feel down, stale, and dry. We can get into a pattern of unemotional church going where our worship is just running through the motions. “Let’s be done with worship that is always weak and unexciting. If you cannot sing loudly and make loud music to praise the God who has redeemed you in Jesus Christ and is preparing you for heaven, perhaps it is because you do not really know God or the gospel at all. If you do know him, hallelujah.” (J. Boice) “Worship is as much a part of the human organism as the rising of the sun is to the cosmic order.” (M.L.King)

Read Psalm 150 and write your own praise (halal) song to Him.

Hallelujah!

Praise God in his sanctuary. Praise him in his mighty expanse.

Praise him for his powerful acts; praise him for his abundant greatness.

Praise him with the blast of a ram's horn; praise him with harp and lyre.

Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and flute.

Praise him with resounding cymbals; praise him with clashing cymbals.

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

Hallelujah!

[illegible]

# PSALM 111





# PSALM 111 – GIVE THANKS

Hallelujah!

I will praise the Lord with all my heart in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation. The Lord's works are great, studied by all who delight in them. All that he does is splendid and majestic; his righteousness endures forever. He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered. The Lord is gracious and compassionate. He has provided food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever.

He has shown his people the power of his works by giving them the inheritance of the nations. The works of his hands are truth and justice; all his instructions are trustworthy. They are established forever and ever, enacted in truth and in uprightness. He has sent redemption to his people. He has ordained his covenant forever. His name is holy and awe-inspiring. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his instructions have good insight.

His praise endures forever.

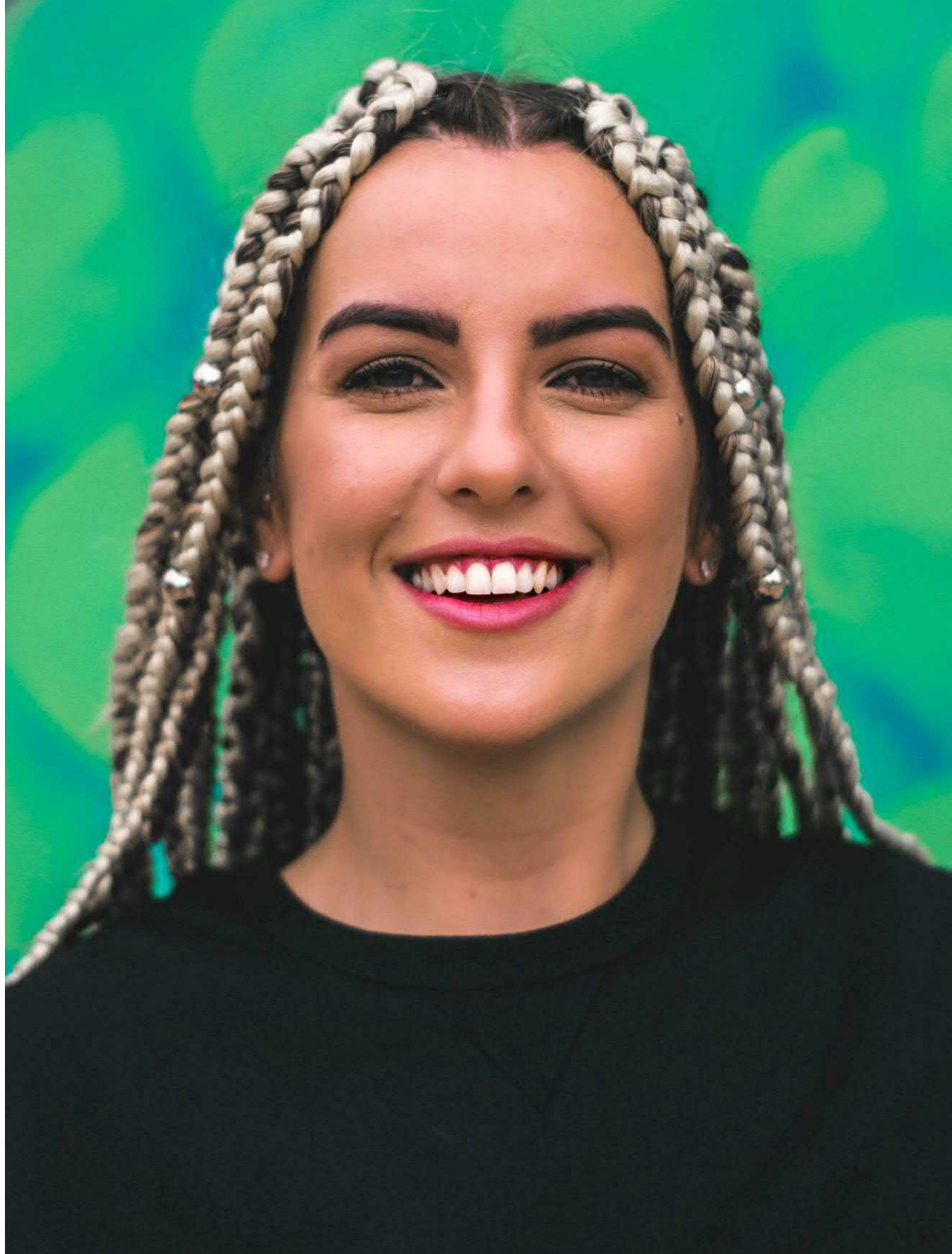
After reading this passage, I am reminded of how amazing the God I worship is. I am thankful for His **MAJESTIC DEEDS, GRACE, COMPASSION, RIGHTEOUSNESS, FAITHFULNESS, TRUSTWORTHINESS**, and **COMMITMENT** to his covenant. I can rely on the Lord to be my strong protector and to provide for me. Every day I see how He works in my life in simple things like providing me with a summer job, helping me with a hard conversation, and even giving me a beautiful day to enjoy. When I focus on the millions of blessings that He provides for me, how can I NOT be thankful? Being thankful is a mindset that strengthens my relationship with God and allows me to view my life in a beautiful way. The Lord is faithful and is with me every day, and that is why I am so thankful.

By Zoe Dennis

[illegible]

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# PSALM 63



# PSALM 63 – ONLY GOD SATISFIES

We all have times when we feel far from Him. We can feel distant. It is if we are in a dry and dusty land of the soul. We desire to be near Him again; to feel His presence; to be satisfied and content in Him. We have forgotten that He is with us. It is not that God that has turned His gaze away, but us. If we abide (hang out, dwell, and stay in constant relationship) with Him, we are promised fruitfulness and peace. Apart from Him, we can do nothing.

God, you are my God; I eagerly seek you.

I thirst for you; my body faints for you in a land that is dry, desolate, and without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory.

My lips will glorify you because your faithful love is better than life.

So I will bless you as long as I live; at your name, I will lift up my hands.

You satisfy me as with rich food; my mouth will praise you with joyful lips.

When I think of you as I lie on my bed, I meditate on you during the night watches because you are my helper; I will rejoice in the shadow of your wings.

I follow close to you; your right hand holds on to me.

But those who intend to destroy my life will go into the depths of the earth.

They will be given over to the power of the sword; they will become a meal for jackals.

But the king will rejoice in God; all who swear by him will boast, for the mouths of liars will be shut.

Thy lovingkindness is better than life  
Thy lovingkindness is better than life  
My lips shall praise thee, thus still I  
bless thee, I will lift up my hands unto  
thy name

Thy Loving Kindness - The  
Maranatha! Singers