

## PSALM 77

**1** To the chief Musician, to Jeduthun, A Psalm of Asaph. I cried unto God with my voice, *even* unto God with my voice; and he gave ear unto me. **2** In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord: my sore ran in the night, and ceased not: my soul refused to be comforted. **3** I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah. **4** Thou holdest mine eyes waking: I am so troubled that I cannot speak. **5** I have considered the days of old, the years of ancient times. **6** I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search. **7** Will the Lord cast off for ever? and will he be favourable no more? **8** Is his mercy clean gone for ever? doth *his* promise fail for evermore? **9** Hath God forgotten to be gracious? hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies? Selah. **10** And I said, This *is* my infirmity: *but I will remember* the years of the right hand of the most High. **11** I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. **12** I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings. **13** Thy way, O God, *is* in the sanctuary: 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 redeemed thy people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah. **16** The waters saw thee, O God, the waters saw thee; they were afraid: the depths also were troubled. **17** The clouds poured out water: the skies sent out a sound: thine arrows 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 Aaron. Psalms 77:1-20 (KJV)

### My Song in the Night

#### (Availing God's Help Through Adversity)

- (1) Remaining in God's Presence though trouble assailed (v1-3)
  - a. Cried to God (v1)
  - b. Sought God (v2)
  - c. Remembered God (v3)
- (2) Resting in God's Promises when doubts prevailed (v4-9)
- (3) Recalling God's Past Faithfulness and strength renewed (v10-15)
- (4) Reliance unto God's Providence, confidence assured (v16-20)

## INTRODUCTION

In times of trouble, when the soul refused to be comforted by reason of the overwhelmingly distressing situation that has arisen, what do we do? When the heart is wont to complain and murmur against God, whose trusteth in the Lord, happy is he! O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes.

- (1) Remaining in God's Presence though trouble assailed (v1-3)**
  - a. Cried to God (v1)**
  - b. Sought God (v2)**
  - c. Remembered God (v3)**

Verse 1 *"I cried unto God with my voice, even unto God with my voice; and he gave ear unto me."*

This is the blessed assurance for all who in faith call upon the Lord in time of adversity. The psalmist testifies this truth for our learning. He called with his voice to God. It was an audible cry for this was his expression of faith. God answered his prayer.

Verse 2 *"In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord: my sore ran in the night, and ceased not: my soul refused to be comforted."*

He was in dire straits and distress when he sought his Master to lead and guide him. Notice that the word "Lord" is used twice (v2, 7) alluding to God's ability to give instruction and direction in helpless moments like this. He resorted to God, the emphasis is on the completed action of seeking. His "hand" poured out to God in the night till he was numbed. He was physically distraught - very upset. His soul just could not be comforted.

Verse 3 *"I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah."*

He forgot not his God, yet he murmured (was troubled) and complained, for his own spirit was weak! Pause.

- (2) Resting in God's Promises when doubts prevailed (v4-9)**

Verse 4 *“Thou holdest mine eyes waking: I am so troubled that I cannot speak.”*

He could not sleep. It is as God holding up his eyelids to keep his eyes open for the anguish in his heart to a point where now he has no words to express. It is as if he is dumbfounded.

Verse 5 *“I have considered the days of old, the years of ancient times.”*

He recounted his own experience of God’s dealing with him.

Verse 6 *“I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.”*

He sang the songs that would comfort his heart in the past and pondered upon his life thus far.

Verses 7-9 *“Will the Lord cast off for ever? and will he be favourable no more? Is his mercy clean gone for ever? doth his promise fail for evermore? Hath God forgotten to be gracious? hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies? Selah.”*

He is reminded that he is a child of God and therefore he asked “Can God’s covenant with his children ever fail?” Are these questions of doubt in his heart? Possibly! He was wrestling with God in his heart not to be overwhelmed by his present circumstance. All the answers must be in the negative as we take a firm grip of God’s covenantal promises to His children.

### **(3) Recalling God’s Past Faithfulness and strength renewed (v10-15)**

Verse 10 *“And I said, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High.”*

He acknowledged that it is his corrupt old self to doubt but He will take hold of the truth that God has assuredly been upholding him through his life since the time he entrusted his life to Him.

Verses 11-12 *“I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.”*

This is the turning point as he recalled the truths of God’s Word that declares His glorious works done for His children. Notice the invoking of God’s covenantal name “LORD” alluding to His unfailing faithfulness. He is always true to His promises.

At the end of the psalm, Moses and Aaron is mentioned as example of God's appointed shepherd to care for the Israelites throughout their wilderness travel. God did not once fail them – a pillar of cloud by day, a pillar of fire by night, manna and meat, fountains of water, shoes that did not wear out. Even the great sea parted to make a pathway for them to be delivered from the pursuing Egyptian army. He took time to ponder and consider God's past faithfulness in His Word. What about in my life? Has God not been faithful in the past?

Verses 13-15 *“Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God? Thou art the God that doest wonders: thou hast declared thy strength among the people. Thou hast with thine arm redeemed thy people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah.”*

At this point, spiritual strength is renewed in his heart. He recalled the adversity that Jacob and Joseph went through in their lives. In every seemingly impossible situation God delivered them. He declared God is truly great!

#### **(4) Reliance unto God's Providence, confidence assured (v16-20)**

Verse 16-20 *“The waters saw thee, O God, the waters saw thee; they were afraid: the depths also were troubled. The clouds poured out water: the skies sent out a sound: thine arrows also went abroad. The voice of thy thunder was in the heaven: the lightnings lightened the world: the earth trembled and shook. Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known. Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.”*

Although his circumstance remained adverse as he sees the raging waves and the troubled waters of his life. He was not longer distressed. He saw the silver lining in the dark cloud! He looked now with renewed eyes of faith at his predicament. He knew in his heart that God will see him through. God will guide and care for him, he can rely on His LORD.

#### **CONCLUSION**

May we too avail ourselves to God trusting in His promises, His ability and His care through every adversity in life.

#### **In Tenderness He Sought Me**

In tenderness He sought me,  
Weary and sick with sin,

And on His shoulders brought me  
Back to His fold again;  
While angels in His presence sang  
Until the courts of heaven rang.

(Chorus)

O the love that sought me!  
O the blood that bought me!  
O the grace that brought me to the fold,  
Wondrous grace that brought me to the fold!

He washed the bleeding sin-wounds,  
And poured in oil and wine;  
He whispered to assure me,  
"I've found thee, thou art Mine!"  
I never heard a sweeter voice -  
It made my aching heart rejoice!

He pointed to the nail prints -  
For me His blood was shed,  
A mocking crown, so thorny  
Was placed upon His head:  
I wondered what He saw in me,  
To suffer such deep agony.

I'm sitting in His presence,  
The sunshine of His face,  
While with adoring wonder  
His blessings I retrace:  
It seems as if eternal days  
Are far too short to sound His praise.

So while the hours are passing,  
All now is perfect rest;  
I'm waiting for the morning,  
The brightest and the best,  
When He will call us to His side,  
To be with Him, His spotless bride.

**Keep on Believing**

When you feel weakest, dangers surround;  
Subtle temptations, troubles abound;  
Nothing seems hopeful, nothing seems glad,  
All is despairing, oftentimes sad.

(Chorus)

Keep on believing, Jesus is near,  
Keep on believing, there's nothing to fear;  
Keep on believing, this is the way,  
Faith in the night as well as the day.

If all were easy, if all were bright,  
Where would the cross be? and where the fight?  
But in the testings God gives to you,  
Chances for proving what He can do.

God is your wisdom; God is your might;  
God's ever near you guiding you right;  
He understands you, knows all you need:  
Trusting in Him you'll surely succeed.

Let us press on then; never despair;  
Live above feeling, victory's there;  
Jesus can keep us so near to Him,  
That nevermore shall our faith grow dim.

### **Blessed Assurance**

Blessèd assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

*Refrain*

*This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior, all the day long;  
This is my story, this is my song,  
Praising my Savior, all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels descending bring from above  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

*Refrain*

Perfect submission, all is at rest  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

*Refrain*

**Constantly Abiding**

There's a peace in my heart that the world never gave,  
A peace it cannot take away;  
Tho the trials of life may surround like a cloud,  
I've a peace that has come here to stay!

(Chorus)

Constantly abiding - Jesus is mine;  
Constantly abiding - Rapture divine;  
He never leaves me lonely - Whispers, O so kind,  
"I will never leave thee!" Jesus is mine.

All the world seemed to sing of a Savior and King,  
When peace sweetly came to my heart;  
Troubles all fled away and my night turned to day -  
Blessed Jesus, how glorious Thou art!

This treasure I have in a temple of clay  
While here on His footstool I roam;  
But He's coming to take me, some glorious day,  
Over there to my heavenly home!