

Psalm 143 (1-12) – Hear Me & Help Me

Hear Me (vs.1-6) – Two main petitions (1 John 5:14-15), two main needs (mercy and grace).

I know I need your mercy (vs.1) – not getting what we *do* deserve. God is righteous and so therefore faithful. David is asking based on His God, not on his good. The fact that there is anything at all that is good in this world is an expression of the merciful love of God to all men, and that is why all men are so guilty. God does not owe you; you have not merited or earned anything from God (Luke 17:10). We need mercy, and we need to praise God, for He is merciful.

I know I need your grace (vs.2) – getting what we *don't* deserve. There has never been one moment in all of your life that you loved God as He deserves. Many say, "So if the (bad person) just believes in Jesus, he'll go to Heaven, but if I live a moral life and don't, I'll burn in Hell?" The premise is that crimes against mankind are worse than crimes against God. However, if loving God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, is the greatest commandment (Mark 12:28-31), then failing to do so is the greatest sin, and opens the door to all lesser sins. All sin is ultimately against God (Psalm 51:4). If you think you are righteous, step on one side of the scale and let Jesus step on the other. We all need grace, always.

The enemy of my soul is after me (vs.3) – we are chased, crushed, cornered by our enemies, the world (1 John 2:16), the flesh (1 Peter 2:11), and the devil (1 Peter 5:8).

I am weak and stunned (vs.4) – We lose strength and heart. David felt the pain. We all go through it, but will we pray through it (James 4:6-8)? Do you turn to God in your trials or surrender to fear and grumbling? Are you confident in your own strength or do you see your utter need for the grace of God? Your answers say more about your sanctification than whether you attend church regularly, give abundantly, witness continuously, or have fasted recently.

I think about what God has done before (vs.5) – the deliverance, the blessing, etc.

The precedent of the past leads to passion in the present (vs.6) – I reach out for revival.

Help Me (vs.7-12) – we want God to help us because He is our true source of help.

Give me an answer (vs.7) – I need it now, because without you I'm hopeless and dying.

Give me direction (vs.8) – let me start my day knowing your love, because I trust you. Help me to go the right way, because I long for you.

Give me deliverance (vs.9) – because you are the Lord, and I am running to you.

Give me instruction (vs.10) – because you are my God, and I want to do you will.

Give me revival (vs.11) – because of your reputation, and I am your child.

Give me rest (vs.12) – because you are steadfast, and I am your servant (John 12:26). If you keep your eye on Him, you will see He has His eye on you. Hebrews 4:14-16 – “boldly” refers to the fact, not the act, we don't have to shy away, we can go where we need, and get what we need. Heavenly Father, burn this Word into our hearts that our hearts may blaze with your Truth.