



Praying the Psalms

A PRAYER OFFERED AFTER READING PSALM 118

BY SHEILA LUTZ

The Lord is God,
and he has made
his light to shine
upon us. Oh, give
thanks to the Lord
for he is good; for
his steadfast love
endures forever!

In my heart, I know the truth of Your words, Lord, but, especially when the trials of life hit hard day after day, I don't feel it. Doubt and other things creep into my life — like stress and distress. Out of my distress I cry to You, O Lord. Please answer me. I know You are on my side. I should fear nothing, and yet ... I do. I fear I won't endure. This problem seems never to go away. My confidence wanes because I am so tired of being this way. Oh, how I long to be free of all that I face — today and tomorrow and the next ... and the next.

Others are in great distress, too. Open the gates for those who have long endured illness. For some, the open gate will soon lead to You and Your kingdom. For others, illness will continue. As they pray, open their eyes to see the gate You give to them and the help You send through those who come to aid and uplift. Whether the next step is life with You in heaven or life with You on earth, let each tell others how You, their Lord, have been their strength and stronghold.

Still others are enduring pain and loss from things of the earth — things many see as needful to sustain life: loss of a job, loss of their home and family, or loss by fire, flood, or storm. Being surrounded by these assaults can make us feel overwhelmed. Wrap Your loving arms around them as they endure this season of loss. The poverty, the attacks of loneliness, the problems — once small — now growing into mountains, the loss of life as they once knew it — all these can push them hard. If they are falling, O Lord, send them the help You know they need.

We, Your children, can endure through these times. Like the disciples in the boat, we, too, will get through the storm to the other side. You are there with us. You are not sleeping or unaware. We know You are good. We have learned and lived this: Your steadfast love endures forever! We know You. You are with us each day! We can take refuge in You and trust in You. With You, our Helper, on our side, what can man do to us? Save all who are going through storms. Lord of life, we extol You! We praise You! We give You thanks!

O Lord, our God, our Savior, and our Helper, *I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. ... This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. ... Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. ... The Lord is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us. ... Oh, give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! Amen and Amen!* **Q**