

## Daily Encouragement – Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September

### Psalm 143

#### A psalm of David.

Just like Psalm 142, Psalm 143 is a cry to God for help in the midst of great trouble. This psalm is the last of 7 'penitential psalms', psalms of repentance, which is seen most clearly in verse 2.

#### "Hear me" v1-6

- <sup>1</sup> LORD, hear my prayer,  
listen to my cry for mercy;  
in your faithfulness and righteousness  
come to my relief.
- <sup>2</sup> Do not bring your servant into judgment,  
for no one living is righteous before you.
- <sup>3</sup> The enemy pursues me,  
he crushes me to the ground;  
he makes me dwell in the darkness  
like those long dead.
- <sup>4</sup> So my spirit grows faint within me;  
my heart within me is dismayed.
- <sup>5</sup> I remember the days of long ago;  
I meditate on all your works  
and consider what your hands have done.
- <sup>6</sup> I spread out my hands to you;  
I thirst for you like a parched land.

When we confess our sins to God, we remember His great character. He is faithful and righteous, a God who hears our prayer and shows us great mercy (v1). He is the righteous judge (v2) and we desperately need Him! (v6) When we consider our needs and bring them honestly to God, we plead on the basis of who He is, remembering constantly what He has done (v5). Our God is able!

#### "Answer me" v7-12

- <sup>7</sup> Answer me quickly, LORD;  
my spirit fails.  
Do not hide your face from me  
or I will be like those who go down to the pit.
- <sup>8</sup> Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love,  
for I have put my trust in you.  
Show me the way I should go,  
for to you I entrust my life.
- <sup>9</sup> Rescue me from my enemies, LORD,  
for I hide myself in you.
- <sup>10</sup> Teach me to do your will,  
for you are my God;  
may your good Spirit  
lead me on level ground.
- <sup>11</sup> For your name's sake, LORD, preserve my life;  
in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble.
- <sup>12</sup> In your unfailing love, silence my enemies;  
destroy all my foes,  
for I am your servant.

Without God's blessing, without His face shining upon us- we would certainly perish. Praise God that in Christ He has turned His face towards us- we are his beloved children. He also inclines his ear to hear our prayers. As His people our desire is to hear His word. Oh how we need to be reminded of His unfailing love (v8) and be strengthened in our faith.

We are living in a world of uncertainty, one where voices crowd us telling us who we should be, what we should buy and how we should live. Rescue us Lord and show us the way we should go! One road leads to death, the other life- there is no in-between. May Christ teach us to do the will of the Father and may the Holy Spirit lead us on level ground, for we are His servants.