

## When the Believer's Soul Is Running on Empty 2024.08.04 Morning Sermon in Psalm 119:81–88

81 My soul faints for Your salvation,  
But I hope in Your word.  
82 My eyes fail from searching Your word,  
Saying, “When will You comfort me?”  
83 For I have become like a wineskin in smoke,  
Yet I do not forget Your statutes.  
84 How many are the days of Your servant?  
When will You execute judgment on those who persecute me?  
85 The proud have dug pits for me,  
Which is not according to Your law.  
86 All Your commandments are faithful;  
They persecute me wrongfully;  
Help me!  
87 They almost made an end of me on earth,  
But I did not forsake Your precepts.  
88 Revive me according to Your lovingkindness,  
So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.

**Main idea:** Because we know the character of God and the place that He has given His Word, even at the end of his rope, the believer must persist in crying out to God for the life that he needs to keep searching God's Word and keeping the testimonies of God's mouth

**Introduction:** running on empty

### 1. How bad things can get

1. Soul consuming circumstances (v81)
2. Eye-consuming [felt] futility in the Word and prayer (v82)
3. Drained of life, ability, and usefulness (v83)
4. Counting the days until death (v84a)

### 2. What believers still do

1. Count on God's judgment (v84b–85)
2. Count God's commandments as faithfulness
  1. Faithfulness that is worthy of continuing to be followed, even though his circumstances are so dire (v86a)
  2. Faithfulness that will surely answer wrongful persecution (v86b)

3. Cry out for help (v86c)
  1. Repeating the situation to the God Who knows, cares, and has already planned His answer (v85a, 87a)
  2. Specifically asking for help to continue to be faithful (v87b, 88b)
  3. Asking for life (v88a)
  4. Asking God to keep being God (v88a)
  5. Asking God to keep being your own God by His Word (v88b) and prayer (v81–88).

**Conclusion:** Whether you are in a season of relief or a season of mortal distress, God is still God. And if you are a believer, He is still your God, Who sustains you by His Word and prayer.

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via [hopewellarp.org](http://hopewellarp.org))

Psalm 119 verse 81-88. These are God's words. My soul faints. For your salvation. But I hope in your work. My eyes fail. From searching your word. Saying. When will you comfort me? For I have become like a wine skin in Smoke. Yet, I do not forget your statutes. How many are the days of your servant?

When Will you execute judgment? On those who persecute me. The proud have Dug Pits for me. Which is not according to your law. All your Commandments are faithful. They persecute me wrongfully. Help me. They almost made an end of me on the Earth. But I did not forsake your precepts.

Revive me according to your loving kindness. So that I may keep the testimony. Of your mouth. Amen. This ends this reading of God's inspired and an errant word. We Rejoice to know that his Spirit blesses to us both the reading and now the preaching of it, please be seated.

Sometimes it is God's Providence. In a believer's life for them to be running on empty. On our way home. From the family Bible Conference. On Friday. Uh, we passed a man by the side of the road. Uh, who Who was being attended by? Sheriff. Uh, doing his duty and kindness and generosity had brought the man a can of gas on the interstate.

Some of those stretches. Uh between here and there are long stretches in which there's nowhere to go and you certainly couldn't walk to it. I suppose that. Uh, realized too late. Uh, Low, he was On fuel. And, As. The sputtering and the stalling started. Uh, you probably began to feel.

A small amount of. Discouragement or perhaps even despair. Until finally, Was just coasting. There's no more engine. And I had to pull over. At least get himself into the shoulder by the

time he ran out. One of the things that we find in the scripture and many places, Uh and few more intensely than this one.

Is that sometimes the Christian life is like that. If you thought when you were becoming a Christian, Or if you thought that. Growing in Grace and coming into. Christian maturity. There is such a thing as Christian maturity. If you thought that. Exempt you from or make you immune? To such seasons in life.

The Lord in his Mercy. Gives us what? Must be and must become for a Believer who's familiar with his Bible and uses it well and fellowship with God. The Psalms of course will be. A precious treasure even within the Bible. Uh, the prayers and songs that the Lord Gives us.

To be lifting up to him and to condition our hearts by singing And even within the Psalms Psalm 119. Uh, has a A place of preciousness and how the Lord has constructed it and then how the Lord has used it. Uh, in his people's lives. Thousand years or so.

And then, here we are. The last stanza of the first half of Psalm 119, And it's all about and prayed by and sung, by A believer who's running on empty. And the Lord is preparing us for. How bad things can get. In the believer's life. Um, he spends Uh, really the first four verses.

The first half of this stanza. On how bad how intense? Is the difficulty and the discouragement and except for the fact that he's still crying out to God, even the despair. Of the believer. And so since, Since the text spends about half. Uh, of the Words on that, we will aim to spend about half of our time in that just on how bad things can get.

But praise God, even by the example, Of what the psalmist is doing and then some of what the psalmist asks God to do and to help him to do. We will consider then what Believers still do. What they can do, but what they still do by God's strength. By God's strength.

So, how bad can things get? How bad things can get and then what Believers still do. My soul faints for your salvation. But I hope in your work. Verse 81. Uh, it is. My pastoral. And in some cases my parental. That many of you young men will Go to Seminary.

And you will need the help of God in different way, than he gave me to have his help in Seminary, some of the same ways. But the uh, the first way to hack your Seminary is Grow up in a house. Where Arabic is spoken? Uh, and so Uh, too late.

For, for all of you. Um, But I used to hear the word khalas. Um, sometimes. It was when The children and my brothers and I have two brothers or two and a half years apart. And that is a lot of energy, and a lot of boy. To have in a concentrated package.

And when Dad had had enough, He would say khalas. Which meant? Uh, not not just enough but Enough with that tone of voice that your mother sometimes uses children. That means one more movement. Of whatever it is or one more word. Of whatever it is is not permissible. You are absolutely.

Done. And then sometimes we would hear it as you can imagine as we got older. But Um, We were quite energetic in between meals and then. Of course, quite voracious at meals to supply that energy. We would sometimes hear coloss, which meant. There isn't a fragment more. We've. We've spatulaed the last of the drippings out of the pan.

There's just gone. Um, Well, the word translated faints in Verse 81. And the word translated fail in Verse 82 is Hebrew. Um, and you can hear And there are many such words between Arabic

and and Hebrew. God's, providential Mercy to me. But you can hear then there's not a particle more.

It's all gone. It's consumed. The fact that he's still praying and singing. Means that. Moment by moment, he can feel. That he's being fed by God, given by God. Just what? Necessary to. Formed the thought. Or to open his mouth. Or to put the pen to paper. Like, That weariness that you.

Sometimes get where perhaps you are even asking God. And then asking God, you have to give the command to your foot. All right. Forward down and the other foot lift. Forward.

How bad things can get for the believer. Soul consuming circumstances. Is the first. Um, The first thing, this Psalm tells us or this portion of the psalm tells us About how fast bad things. Got my soul. Is consumed. For your salvation. Now, in Setting of it. You know, we sing We?

My soul is fainting to see. Your salvation there. There's not even a an infinitive verb there. Just my soul is gone. My soul is consumed. It's all used up. There's nothing left. And it's not just, he's saying that part of him that is. Who he is the part that departs from his body?

He's talking about his whole being There's nothing left in all that he is. Um, And it's not just a desire for God. Although we ought to long for God this way, especially if he has hidden the light of his face from us, if he is withdrawn from you that sense of Of fellowship with him that sense of his smile upon you.

And you have known it and now you you don't and you've gone through a season and maybe it's an extended season. You can hardly remember. What it was like. To walk with him. To have the sweetness of knowing that he speaks to you and he loves you and To have the fellowship of knowing that he hears you while you speak to him.

My. Faints. My soul is all used up. I am. At the end of my rope. You've gotten to the point where You know maybe you grinned and bore it for a while. And you tried to make it look better. When you were at church for the sake of others, people's other people's eyes.

You know, maybe it's included relational things. And, Um, done your part and not brought up what's bothering, you But you're not the breaking point. You just aren't. Physically. Within the strength of your being, the resources of your being, Just not able to do it anymore.

And its particular circumstances in this case. Because it's God's salvation. For which his soul has been consumed. In Desiring and longing and looking for There's some circumstance out of which he needs to be delivered. There's some circumstance out of which he needs to be rescued.

And so, you know, As God gives you this song. And, Uh, knowing In the sweetness of it, that The Lord Jesus has experienced these this sort of situation too. In fact he experienced it once in a way that no Christian ever will. For, he looked to God on the cross.

Whom he had known as father and depended upon perfectly like you. And I have never depended upon him so far. And there was no help. The spirit sustained him, but the smile of the father was Invisible. Completely hidden. To him and with respect to his human nature. He cried out my God, my God.

Have you forsaken me? And so God, in preparing his son, Preparing for his son to come into the world, rather He provided him with a songbook a prayer book. That you and I now have we have the same prayer book as Jesus. We have the same song book. As the Lord Jesus Christ.

And just as you could go through Psalms that were very specific to Christ like Psalm 22, and yet would have Application to our lives. You could discover what to expect. The experience of the Christ to be. In this world. Well, dear Christian. This is also some of what to expect the experience of the Christian.

To be in this world. That there will be circumstances. In which your soul. Consumed. Longing, to be rescued from, My soul faints for your salvation but I hope in your word and that sounds all good and well and he's still hoping in God's word but it's not what you might think it is.

To Hope in God's word. I have in a number of counseling situations. Um, sometimes people begin And, They think that. There will be a quick fix and sometimes there is some Some quick Improvement. But really, when whenever we're doing counseling, And it's not just over there in the study or wherever I might meet for.

A more private counseling session. We we do counseling here. We're always laying the, the foundation for the Christian Life and thought and affections and relationships. Upon God himself in Christ himself in the gospel. And it is lot word upon word and lying upon line, and hear a little there, a little Brick by Brick building that Foundation, I happen to know that Some of you are laying a foundation and it's a long process for you.

Just for a house. Well. A certain, and Time, tested and sturdy. Well, the the same is true for For the believer. And sometimes, whether it's In Christianity. Or generally speaking, a new believer who can see how wonderful the Blessed life in Christ is and they're full of all that youthful Zeal and enthusiasm, which is good.

Of the new convert or whether it's someone who has turned over a new Leaf in repenting of some sin and and they're coming to the word in prayer or or maybe There's been some renovation the Christian Life God has met you in a particular sermon or particular family, worshiper.

A particular secret worship. And Stripped Away some of the callus. That has been there. And you've thought me and God God, you and I now by your word and by prayer and by the Lord's days, and by the the public, the holy assembly, and the Lord's Day. And having you yourself in the worship that you have commanded, we are going to do it now.

And yet. You try. About a month or two or sometimes a week or two, sometimes a day or two. Goes by and you've you've been reading and you've been praying. And you get to Wednesday. Of that. And, It's not fixed yet. The relationship isn't all better yet. The sin that you are mortifying.

Is still there not just in Temptation but you've been committing it been acting on. A new resolve that you had to have a life lived and fellowship with God. And you don't even remember. And the Thousand times a day that you need it. To say, help me. And you think, well, I guess the word and prayer don't work.

Or I'll have someone come back and say, I've been trying that Bible reading and praying thing. It doesn't work. Well, that's very different than what we see here. Cuz he doesn't just say, my soul is used up for your salvation but I hope in your word. There's a problem going from Verse 81 to verse 82.

Because now his eyes are used up. In. 82. So not just Soul consuming consuming circumstances. But I consuming futility. And if, if you've got the outline, you see that the word felt is in Brackets there because it's not actually futile. But it's hard to convince the person

who's reading the Bible and praying and they're still at the end of their rope and they still feel like they can't do it for another moment.

And they've been reading and not just reading, but praying. Look at verse 82. My eyes are consumed or used up On your word. Saying, when will you comfort me? So this is the word and prayer. This is, this is using up his eyes upon the word of God. How wonderful?

Would it be? To go blind from reading the Bible too much. Now, this is not. Necessarily talking about actual physical blindness. But he's describing here some economics of vision. You know, you can you can decide. We were thinking a little bit about, uh, the purpose of speech and using it well in the Sabbath school.

And the purpose of, Your schooling children and the best. Best subject at least at first in school, when you're learning to read, so that you can reach the point where you can actually read the words of God in the Bible, and meet him, there in his, in his word.

You know what, you know, we were asking you what, what do you spend your words on here? What do you spend your eyes on? Ever thought of your eyes and your vision. That way. What is it that you put before your eyes? You know, you have a limited number of sight hours in this world.

You don't know what they are. But you're using them proportionately. The, the psalmist here says, I've used up my eyes. In the Hebrew. I've used up my eyes on your word and not just reading. Not just checking the box. You know. If you have like a Bible reading plan and there are boxes and you check them.

Not wrong. It's fine. But reading just to check the box, there's a problem. But reading and asking, Saying, when will you comfort me? He he knows that the Bible isn't just something that proceeded from God's mouth once and was written on the page. But that when he reads it, it is as if God is currently speaking.

Those words out of his mouth, Not saying, when will I be comforted? Or when will it comfort me? Saying, when will you comfort me? He's not doing it wrongly. He's in a circumstance where he feels as his soul is consumed and he is reading. The Bible as fellowship with God.

Looking to God himself to comfort him from the word. And his eyes are used up and he doesn't have the Comfort yet.

And I suspect many of you. Dear Believers have been in that circumstance. And if you haven't yet, if the Lord spares you in this world, Take it to heart that he gives you in his word. Instruction to prepare you. For circumstances like that. And don't be surprised. Like Peter says, don't be surprised when the fiery trial comes.

Don't be surprised when the circumstance comes. In, which you feel that your soul is all used up. Looking for God's salvation. And even though you are reading his word and looking to him to to give you the testimony of his mouth as our last, the last verse here, says Looking to him, your eyes, get used up and you still don't have the Comfort.

You were looking for. You know, this isn't the uh, the only place if

Turn back. The end of Psalm 88. You know, there are many saw songs and prayers in the psalter and the psalter in the Book of Psalms. Where he's in difficulty to begin with and he starts calling upon God's name, and remembering things about God's character, and God's previous

works, and God's bra promises, and even without the circumstance changing in the psalm he is He has much helped and the whole thing is transformed and things are better.

He finds the Comfort. Psalm 88 is one of those Psalms except for it, never gets to the Comfort. In the Hebrew, as in the English. The last word of the psalm is Darkness. Such as sometimes, the felt experience of the believer. In this life. Now. May be something that God uses.

To alert you to the fact or to alert you to something being dreadfully. Spiritually wrong with you. It could be.

But it's also quite possible. That things are right and good. Between you and God, not perfectly. So but according to how he works and believer's life, according to his grace, according to Faith in Christ according to the attendant help of his of his holy spirit, and yet in his wisdom and in his goodness in, as the psalm itself says in his faithfulness, He has not given yet.

The comfort that comes from reading his word and praying in fellowship with him. How bad things can get, how bad can things get in the Christian Life. The Christian may go through soul-consuming circumstances and the Christian may go through eye consuming futility. In the word and prayer. Not that the word isn't doing its work and God by his word, isn't doing his work, but that you don't perceive it, and you don't feel the benefit of the fruit of it.

Not, that prayer is futile. But that from your end. You don't feel a bit of good that it does. And you're not even perceiving or feeling the fellowship with God that he gives you to have in it. Verse 83. How bad can things get? You can get to the point where you feel.

That you are drained. Not just you can't go on anymore, but now You're useless. There's no life in you. You can't serve the purpose for you for which you were put here. You're unable to do your task. It says in verse 83 for I have become like a wine skin.

In Smoke. Yet, I do not forget your statutes. You know, you may remember Uh, not too long ago. In Matthew chapter 9, the Lord Jesus's illustration of new wine being put into new wine, skins. Because the disciples of the Pharisees and the disciples of John didn't understand who Jesus is and that he changes.

All of religion. That all of religion now is about the Lord. Jesus Christ that you don't fast when he's present with you because his presence with you is what you would otherwise be fasting for. And you Christ changes everything in in the worship of God. You know, all of the ceremonial laws is discarded worship.

Now takes place by faith in Union with him, who is in heaven. You know, the regulative principle, not just being This is how God has given us to worship and especially in the Old Testament, ceremonies all those things that we saw especially in Leviticus, you know, the holy God has given the right way of worshiping if you add or deviate at It is offense, is it is offensive to him and you cannot draw near him.

And there are things in every part of the worship that he commanded his people in the administration under Moses, That showed something about Jesus. Well, now that Jesus has come The regular principle isn't just about how we worship. It is all about in whom we worship. The reason we only do the things that God has given us to do, isn't just because he's God and he defines what worship is.

That's true. It isn't just because he's holy And by those who draw near to him, he must be revered as holy which means not a single thing added To what he commands. It's not just how to worship now. It's in. We worship. Because our great high priest is in heaven.

Even now. We're worshipping by the preaching of his word and the hearing of his word preached. And Jesus leads it from Heaven. We come to sing his word admonishing one, another in Psalms, and hymns and spiritual songs. By which not just the word of God dwells in us richly but very specifically by which the word of Christ dwells in us richly.

Which we are not just filled with. Christian feelings and thoughts and desires, but by which we are filled with the Holy Spirit. You know, that's uh, the language of Colossians 3 and the language of Ephesians 5 And realizing. Hebrews chapter 2. When Jesus says, in the midst of the assembly, I speaking about himself.

Sing God's praise.

And the praying. The praying that Jesus leads from Heaven as he always lives to intercede for us and his Spirit, who is the other helper whom he gave to be with us. You can imagine, you know, having been with the disciples and for three years. Jesus always LED in prayer and now Jesus isn't going to be there anymore.

Who's gonna lead in prayer? Who who would want to? Everyone else would just know that, that sure doesn't sound like Jesus is praying. And yet, he sends another helper, the spirit who helps us in our weakness. Because we do not know how to pray. What we ought. Romans chapter 8.

And Jesus. Leading, even the supper. And we say this is my body which is broken for you but it's not some Hocus Pocus Papas ceremony. In in which the the bread is turned into Jesus. Uh, Jesus's flesh. And, Wine is turned into his blood. No, you remember. Remember Jesus saying, The gospel.

Like, new wine. And you can't put it in those old wine skins. Those old wineskins were once new wineskins and they were pliable and they had give and flex and life in them. And they had they had a purpose because when you put in the new wine and it's Yeah, it's a lower.

Alcoholic. Content, which is one of the reasons why it was such a dig on the apostles. Uh, At the Feast of Weeks at Pentecost when they said they're drunk on new wine. Because how much you'd have to drink? Of the four or five percent or whatever it would have been.

Um, no. What happens children is there's still sugar. Uh, in in that wine. And the the yeast in the wine is still eating it. And the the yeast as a as it eats the sugar, it keeps burping and farting. And then the fermentation process. The gas is given off and and the wine expands and if the wine skin isn't a new wine skin, it can't expand because what happens to the skin over time is it becomes hard and set.

And if you, if you've used up the wine and the old wine skin and Uh and you know the the good stuff that the master of the feast in Cana uh was surprised. They saved so much of for last. You you have used that up and then you put new wine back into the old wine skin.

Still got sugar. But now the skin is hard, the skin bursts. And you lose the wine and you lose the skin. But in this case, In Psalm 119 Verse 83. The wine skin. As prematurely. Made brittle brittle. And not just prematurely. But in such a way, it's such a speed and such a fashion that it really can't be used for anything anymore.



Because it got trapped too close to near a fire. And the smoke has dried it out. And has shriveled up and maybe wrinkled maybe come to a point of such brittleness. That if you put anything at all in it, it would just crack. And it would. It would be useless.

It's quite an image for how he feels about himself. Maybe you're here this morning. And you feel like you have been Unnaturally depleted. That the circumstances of your life or perhaps, the circumstances of your own mind or your own heart, have taken, all of the life, all of the moisture out of you.

And it's done it in such a way that you're deformed. You don't feel like you can suit your purpose anymore. In your In the In the world. Or maybe you feel like you're so deformed. You're not useful for any purpose. Anymore.

He says I have become like a wineskin and smoke. Not just that he has got soul consuming circumstances outside of himself and not just that he has experienced eye-consuming futility in not getting what he felt like he needed, what he hoped for from Reading the word and praying to God.

When will you comfort me? But now he himself and his life and his place. He's been trained of life, he's been trained of ability. He feels like There's no way to grow or learn, or improve, or flex in such a way that he could become useful for something.

Which brings us to the fourth part of how bad things can get. He is counting the days. Until death. Verse 84. When he says, how many are the days of your servant, Not like when he says when the other psalmist or another maybe this same one. We don't know who wrote this.

It's not like when the other Psalm says, Um, teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom. He has the heart of wisdom. He knows. That his days are numbered. He's just wondering how many there are because he doesn't feel like he can do any more of them.

He'll be quite fine with him. If he went to bed tonight, and that was it.

It's not a despairing or suicidal way. It's attached to when will you execute judgment on those who persecute me? He's not saying I have decided that this will be my last day. You know, it's none of those wrong. Um, Uh, morbid desires for death itself as a good. It's recognizing that God is in Sovereign control over my life.

And the days that he has given me in this life are days for serving him. Our days for enjoying him our days for see searching, his word and looking for his comfort in them. But he has, Come up with nothing. For so many of these days in a row.

And he's been under this persecution, this attack from others and he knows, God is just But he also knows that sometimes you don't get that Justice. In this life. Sometimes. The justice of the Civil magistrate fails you There isn't any. Sometimes the Justice even of church government and church courts fails.

And not only because there are sinners in them, which is true, but also, because they're finite, They don't know everything. They're not like God. Sometimes there just isn't enough evidence. Sometimes there isn't the ability to act. Upon the evidence. And sometimes even Providence. No, we won't say fails you.

But sometimes God in his Providence does not give you to see in this life. Justice upon those who harm you. Oh, he surely will the psalmist hasn't given up Hope on that. He's not saying

there is no justice. He's just acknowledging, it might not come in this life. How many are the days of your servant?

When will you execute judgment? On those who persecute me. So this is how bad things can get in the Christian Life. The Lord may in his Providence, bring you through. Soul consuming circumstances. In which you feel entirely used up. Looking for rescue. From whatever that particular circumstance is. The Lord in his Providence may bring you through a season of.

A felt futility. Eye consuming felt futility. In his word and prayer. The Lord may bring you through a season. In which you are like a wine skin and smoke. Prematurely, Drained. Of all. Of all moisture, of all, ability of all usefulness. Shriveled and damaged. Adding the stench. Of your smokiness to whatever you touch.

Or so, it feels The Lord may even bring you to the extremity. You just wonder how many more of these days? There are going to be. Because you, Have run out of your resources. But praise God. That the believer has run out of his own resources. He hasn't run out of all resources.

You're not a closed system if you're a Christian. You have Union with Christ, you have the indwelling of the spirit, you have the attending of the Holy Even as the psalmist says and prays and sings these things. He's also being carried along by God's holy spirit to be still praying.

And singing. And so must you. Even when it seems like you've used up your eyes and it doesn't work and there's no Comfort. What Believers still do? What Believers still do is cling to God because he can be counted on. We've just noted We've just noted that the believer counts on God's judgment.

When will you execute judgment? On those who persecute me, he knows that God will. He presents as it where God doesn't need evidence. But the believer can bring to to God evidence. Think about this more in a moment when we think about crying out for help, There are there's counting on.

God's judgment. There's counting on God's faithfulness, there's crying for help. These are the three things that Believers still do. Part of his counting on. God's judgment is. Describing what has happened? The proud have dug pits for me. Now, maybe that's literally physically true. Um, I'm sure that you can imagine it in your mind's eye.

Dear children, these enemies of his that they're proud. Not just proud against the psalmist, but proud against God, Feeling that there is no God in heaven who sees the wickedness that they do and who will punish them. Those proud ones, like at the beginning of Psalm 11, Where the foundations seem destroyed and the wicked seem to be To be winning the day and the Wicket are just proud.

They say fly like a bird. And the the song asks, what can the righteous try? Well, you can still count on God's judgment. Just like that, Psalm says, God's eyelids are trying. They're testing the children of men. The Judgment of God is Not idle. It's not absent. They are heaping up against themselves wrath against the day of Wrath.

Like we heard about in Romans chapter 2 You can count on God's judgment and so he says the proud have dug Pits for me said, They're proud. They think they'll never get punished for what they do. They know the path that the psalmist likes to take. And so they've dug a big pit.

They've covered it over with branches and such so that It doesn't look. Like there's a pit there and what are they hoping hoping is going to happen to the psalmist. Well, they're hoping that

he'll come along and fall in. Well, maybe that's physically true. But, you know that happens in other ways in life.

Where people set you up to fail. Or they no habits that you have. And so they say things about you to condition what other people think and feel So that when you do the thing that you always do, That is not wrong. It looks like what they said. They dig a pit for you.

They figure out ways to turn people against you. They figure out ways to turn circumstances against you. It's a metaphor. There's malice there. Like, what we heard about in the in the Sabbath School? You don't say sibling rivalry anymore. We'll say sibling malice Desiring. The Would come to your brother or sister taking pleasure in it.

That's digging pits for you. You hear what he says, the proud of Doug Pitts for me, which is not according to your law. He knows, he's That God is gonna judge. So this is something you must do. If especially if the circumstance in which your soul is used up, looking to God for rescue is something that someone else is doing to you.

Count on the Judgment of God. And don't let your flesh tell you. Well, if it doesn't come in the this life, what use is that or what good is that? No, the final judgment in the last day and the wrath of God upon sin upon all, that is not according to his law Verse 85.

Is the great judgment. Count on his judgment. Secondly, count in his faithfulness. Verse 86, where it says, all your Commandments are faithful. It's actually not just faithful but faithfulness. The the word of God is living and active. And here. The implication is that the Commandments? Yes, they're true. And they are, right.

But that God is always commanding them Faithfully. And that God is always keeping his Commandments. Men break God's Commandments but God doesn't break God's Commandments. God upholds, his Commandments. He sees the sin that is done against you. He is furious against it, he will punish it, he will punish it fully because it's been done.

Not just against you, although that is great. Because of sin against you is a sin against one made in God's image. And a sin against you, who are a Believer. Has been done directly to Jesus Christ. So that it doesn't challenge. Saul of Tarsus. Why he has been persecuting Stephen, but Jesus says, he has been persecuting him.

And even as we're going to hear, when we come back into Matthew chapter 10 and a few more times in the Gospel of Matthew sin against a Christian is sin against Jesus, But all sin. Is sinned directly against God. Directly against God, who created? All man. Directly against God who has given his law and whose character is what defines his law.

God's Commandments. All your Commandments are. Faithfulness. His faithfulness then is worthy. Of continuing to be followed. You don't come to a place. Where you are so used up and you've been trying for so long and the others have been getting away with it for so long that you say.

Like asaph was tempted to say but glad that he hadn't so that he didn't betray a generation of God's children in Psalm 73, you must not come to the place where he say, Vain have I kept my hands clean. There's no use. In keeping God's Commandments. No, his Commandments are faithfulness.

His Commandments are his own faithfulness and they are worthy of continuing to be followed even if your circumstances are so dire. As what we have seen. So far in this Psalm continue to

follow the lord, dear Christian, It's not just that his commands are reliable. It's that his commands are as faithful as he is.

Because they're his commands.

But the faithfulness of his commands. Isn't just worthy of continuing to be followed. It will also surely answer. Wrongful persecution. The fact that they are doing that, which breaks God's law. Has condemned them already. So count on God's judgment, count on God's faithfulness, and particularly his Commandments as faithful.

And in the last place. Cry out for help. Five things quickly to Notice about this cry for help. Um, First. Well, I guess it's six since I didn't put that that one under the subheading First thing notice the Abruptness. Of the prayer at the end of Verse 86. Help me.

Isn't that a wonderful holy prayer? Sometimes, that's all God in his Providence is giving you strength for in the moment, help me. Sometimes, it's all you have time for. You remember Peter children when the disciples were in the boat and it was night time and Jesus was walking to them on the water?

And everyone else, everyone else was afraid because they thought it was a ghost. But Peter, God Bless him was Believed that it was Christ. And how had he, how had he known the Lord? Jesus, especially not just by sight. You and I don't know the Lord Jesus by sight.

That's one of the reasons why we put our Bob stickers over the, the idols in the children's books, or just don't get children's books with Idols in them little pictures that purport to be Jesus but aren't Even Peter. When he really wanted to show and know that it was the Lord Jesus, he didn't want Jesus.

Um appearance. He wanted his word. Lord if it is, you tell me And, And Jesus. Tells him to get out of the boat and come to him and Peter gets out. He's doing pretty good so far. He's recognized that Jesus's word is is, is how he especially knows Jesus.

And that he could believe, uh, everything that Jesus teaches him, and that he must obey everything Jesus commands him. So, now Jesus has told him to get out of the boat and come to him, and he starts, and he takes a step, and he's looking at Jesus, and he takes a step.

And he's looking at Jesus, he takes a step, and he looks down. He starts to sink. Well, if the Lord has stopped Extraordinarily holding you up on top of the water. And you start to sink about how much time do you have from when you can feel that you're starting to sink to when No longer able to get words out.

All right. He was, he was in a time crunch for prayer. You remember his prayer? Lord help. It's like that in verse 86, isn't it? You could feel the extremity of the circumstance in the first half of of the stanza, you could feel it with the psalmist. You could feel it in your own life and he's helped me.

What a good and right and helpful prayer. Don't feel like all of your prayers have to be front loaded with a ton of theology and Uh and have to go through all of these reasonings, you can just lay halt of who God is and that he is listening to you and that he sees the circumstance, you just cry out, help me.

There's a great crime. A great wickedness. That the the prayer God helped me is so often used as a throwaway. Not not. Meaning it. It becomes a blasphemy when. Help me or God. Help me can genuinely be and ought more and more to be the repeated genuine Cry of your heart.

So, when we say cry out for help? Yes, there are these other five things that can shape more thought through and prayer that you spend more time on and and you bring into your your stated times of secret worship with God.

But sometimes often The believer's prayer is just helped me.

Because that's all you have time for. Or that's all you have heart for. Or that's all you have mind for. In the moment. Well, now what are these? Other five aspects that we see? He repeats the situation to the God, who knows? And we've already noted Verse 85, he says the proud of Doug Pitts for me.

Verse 87. Uh, he says. They almost made an end of me on the earth. God knows the situation. God has already planned his answer to the situation. But he cares and he cares to hear. He doesn't just care about your circumstances. He cares to hear you. Tell him. About your circumstances.

You're as a wicked thing to complain against God. But it is a Godly thing. To complain. Not in a grumbling Spirit or a murmuring. But to tell him what's happening. He already knows and to tell him your experience of he already knows that too. The second thing. What is specifically asking for help to do?

Which is to continue to be faithful. Help me. He said they almost made an end of me on Earth but I did not forsake your presets hear what he's saying. He's saying, I want to keep praying, I want to continue keeping your presets, but they're almost done eliminating me.

But what I need help for is so that I can still keep your presets. And then Verse 88 be the end of it. What is he asking for this revive me, according to your loving kindness and we're gonna milk three things out of that. So that I may keep the testimony of your mouth.

This is what he wants to keep on doing. A desire to depart and be with Christ which is better by far. But if I remain let it be to keep the testimonies of his mouth, let it be to keep his presets. Let it be not to depart from his word.

Notice he asks, for Verse 88 a Revive me, literally caused me to continue to live. Now, make sure you marry that I mean, if you meditate on the first part of 884, make sure you marry it to the first part of 88. How many are the days of your servant?

He asks, But then he says revive me, cause me to continue to live. The the word is the verb for life. So, he's asking God, for And he's also asking God. That God would keep being God. Revive me according to your loving kindness. You see we often have run out of ourselves.

But God never runs out of being God. His loving kindness is not consumed, your life may be consumed. Your eyes may be consumed. Your circumstances may be consuming but God's character. And God's covenant love is never consumed. If there's one thing you know that God will always do. He will always keep being God.

And so in your prayers, make a habit of asking him to act, according to his character, according to his Holiness, according to his faithfulness, according to his Justice, according to his truth, according to his goodness, according to his wisdom. According to his loving, kindness. It would be, absolutely sure you're gonna get something you pray for, ask God to keep being God.

And in the last place, ask him not just to keep being God in himself. But ask him to keep being your own God. Revive me according to your loving kindness. It's this covenanted. Love something between him and his people. But notice how he talks about the scripture at the end.

So that I may keep the testimony of Mouth. Now children does God. Have a mouth He doesn't. But he gave us mouths. So that we can speak to one another. And we can have this. Relationship with the words that one speaks and the other hears. So that when he talks about him himself having a mouth, we can understand that God himself is interacting with us.

In his word. So that he is not just God, but he's our God. And when we read his word, he's speaking to us from his mouth, ask him. Whenever you come to his word, you can ask him to speak to you from his mouth. And notice that he is his own God, not just God as the psalmist God not just because he's still speaking to him from his mouth.

But because God's still listening to the psalmist's mouth. Or. So cry out for help. Asking God to keep interacting with you. Whether you're in a season of relief and easiness and com, Or if you're in a season of distress, In which you're attacked and you don't feel like you've got anything left.

God is still God. And if you're a Believer, he's still your God. He will sustain you. He will give you life. You may feel like you have used your eyes up, but you have not used him. So, continue in prayer. Though, you feel like the Comfort hasn't come. Though, your flesh would lie and tell you that it will not come continue in it.

Because the point of prayer is not the praying that is the one to whom you pray. And he has never used up. And the point of reading the word is not the reading. But the one who speaks from his mouth to you. The words that you read. And he is never used up.

And so, if you're in this circumstance, now, Know that the Lord the Lord has told us that it gets this bad. Something has not gone horribly wrong with Christianity, or with God, or with Christ. And if you're in a circumstance like this now, or If and when the Lord brings you into, Remember what Believers can still do and must still do.

Count on his Justice. Count on his faithfulness and especially that his Commandments are faithful. And cry to him for help. You will never use him up. Amen, let's pray.

Oh, Lord. We thank you that you have even taught us. Not to desire situations like this.

And so we pray as you taught us lead us not into temptation. But we thank you for the certainty that you will always act. Consistently with your character and consistently with your Covenant. Consistently to what you also taught us to pray. That you would Deliver Us from Evil.

Lord, and many of their cases. We don't even know who they are. Who are in the midst of. A trial like this. But we pray for our brothers and sisters. Who are in the middle of the fire. That your spirit would come and Apply your words to their hearts.

Give them to cling to you in Christ. And we pray for each one of us that your spirit would apply these words to our hearts. So that when the day comes, We would know that you told us in advance you warned us. So that we would not be taken by surprise.

And that you have already taught us, what we can do. Or just like the psalmist, we can't do it except by the life that you give us. So give us that life, we pray in Jesus name. And all his people here say.