



Misery and Faith
Psalm 88

1. Read Psalm 88. What seems surprising about this being a “worship” song that was sung by God’s people?

a. How does knowing Psalm 88 is in the Bible expand your understanding of what it means to have *faith* in God?

2. Read Psalm 88:1-2. What expressions of faith do we see in these verses?

a. Why is it critical for those in misery to identify faith in their *own lives*?

b. Why is it critical for *the friends* of those in misery to identify faith in the *sufferers life*?

c. What would it look like to pray as much as the Psalmist says he prays here?

3. Read Psalm 88:3-5. Why is it a *good* thing to talk to God in this way? What *benefits* come from it?

a. When was the last time you talked to God about painful FEELINGS you were experiencing? Why?

4. Read Psalm 88:6-9. How can we tell the Psalmist had *faith* that God is sovereign?

a. Why can God’s sovereignty *perplex us* while we suffer severely?

b. Why does God’s sovereignty ultimately *comfort us* while we are in misery?

c. What is an *unhelpful* way to talk about God’s sovereignty with another in misery?

d. Why is the Psalmist so *determined* to continue praying to God?

5. Read Psalm 88:10-13. How do we see a faith-filled passion to *glorify God* here?

a. Why must I learn to keep God's glory central as I'm in misery?

b. How concerned have you been lately with doing EVERYTHING to exalt the name of Jesus? Why?

6. Read Psalm 88:14. Why is it ok, and even good to express questions of confusion about God to God?

a. When do we cross the line with questioning God?

7. Read Psalm 88:15-18. What is significant about how this Psalm ends?

a. What is helpful about seeing how this Psalm ends?

b. Why is it critical to consider that Psalm 88 is one of 150 Psalms and is also surrounded by Psalm 87 and Psalm 89?

c. Why is it important to lament for *lengthy* intervals at times? Why should we be careful to lament *too fast*?

8. Read Luke 22:44. Why must Psalm 88 be read in light of the gospel?
