

Psalm 124 – It Would Have Been Enough

Psalm 124 boasts of God's greatness and presence through all the community's suffering and pain.

Vs 1-2a – God's Divine Intervention: The Lord is on our side.

Note the use of OUR. We remember our collective suffering.

Instead, God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the less honorable, so that there would be no division in the body, but that the members would have the same concern for each other. So if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 1 Corinthians 12:24-27

Vs 2b-3 Swallowed by Relational Mayhem

- Attacked
- Consumed
- Scorched at best, incinerated at worst

People are hard. We are all people in need of Jesus so we sometimes hurt one another in ways we feel like we can't come back from.

Vs 4-5 Drowned in Uncontrollable Circumstances

- Deluged, inundated with a great quantity
- Copious outpouring
- Turbulence, severe, extreme

You are still here because the Lord is on your side!

WE are still here because the Lord is on our side.

Vs 6 Blessed be the Lord, who has not let us be overtaken.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10 (NIV)

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV)

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the

world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. 1 Peter 5:6-10 (NIV)

Vs 6-7 The Great Escape

The Lord's part is that he does not let us be ripped apart.
Our part is that we look to him and escape.

“Grace is not opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning. Earning is an attitude. Effort is an action. Grace, you know, does not just have to do with forgiveness of sins alone.” ~ Dallas Willard

Vs 8 Our Core Confession

Our help is, always has been, and always will be, in the name of the Lord.

“When we are weak, the Lord is strong. When we are perplexed, the Lord is wise. When we feel defeated, the Lord grants us deliverance.”

Daniel J. Estes, Psalms 73–150, ed. E. Ray. Clendenen, vol. 13, New American Commentary (Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing Group, 2019), 468.

Dayenu (“It would have been enough”) is often used as a personal, reflective, or communal prayer of gratitude to acknowledge all that has already been done, sometimes in a “If... then... it would have been enough” format.

Homework:

Write at least five stanzas expressing how God has been on your side.

Think about your circumstances and relationships had the Lord not been on your side. Right a prayer of gratitude to him.