

# Real Spirituality

## How Real People Connect to God

### Heman's Cry of Darkness

4/19/2020

Psalm 88:1-2, 6-18

### SOME TRUTHS ABOUT DARKNESS

1. Both spiritual and personal darkness can last a very **LONG** time.

#### Two Kinds of Darkness:

- **OUTSIDE** darkness is the darkness of **CIRCUMSTANCES**.
- **INTERNAL** darkness is **SPIRITUAL** darkness.  
(Romans 8:28, 1 Corinthians 13:12)?

2. Darkness can show you God's **GRACE**.

3. Darkness can turn you into someone **GREAT**.

(Job 1:8-9)

- a. As bad as this psalm looks, as much as this guy seems to be really blowing it in how he's relating to God... he's still doing it all, **BEFORE GOD**.
- b. If you make the choice to remain "before God," even in suffering, then you have defeated **SATAN'S** scheme, and are becoming a person of unshakeable **CHARACTER**.

4. Darkness can be **RELATIVIZED**.

- a. The darkness he felt was not absolute, total, and permanent. It wasn't **objective**; it was **SUBJECTIVE**. It was apparent; it wasn't his ultimate reality.

### GOD IN THE DARK

Why did Jesus experience total darkness on our behalf? Because God wants to **FORGIVE** us.

If Jesus Christ didn't abandon you in **HIS** darkness, the ultimate darkness, why in the world would he abandon you in **YOURS**?

### Psalm 88:1-2, 6-18

- <sup>1</sup> O LORD, the God who saves me,  
day and night I cry out before you.
- <sup>2</sup> May my prayer come before you;  
turn your ear to my cry.
- <sup>6</sup> You have put me in the lowest pit,  
in the darkest depths.
- <sup>7</sup> Your wrath lies heavily upon me;  
you have overwhelmed me with all your waves.
- <sup>8</sup> You have taken from me my closest friends  
and have made me repulsive to them.  
I am confined and cannot escape;
- <sup>9</sup> my eyes are dim with grief.  
I call to you, O LORD, every day;  
I spread out my hands to you.
- <sup>10</sup> Do you show your wonders to the dead?  
Do those who are dead rise up and praise you?
- <sup>11</sup> Is your love declared in the grave,  
your faithfulness in Destruction?
- <sup>12</sup> Are your wonders known in the place of darkness,  
or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion?
- <sup>13</sup> But I cry to you for help, O LORD;  
in the morning my prayer comes before you.
- <sup>14</sup> Why, O LORD, do you reject me  
and hide your face from me?
- <sup>15</sup> From my youth I have been afflicted and close to death;  
I have suffered your terrors and am in despair.
- <sup>16</sup> Your wrath has swept over me;  
your terrors have destroyed me.
- <sup>17</sup> All day long they surround me like a flood;  
they have completely engulfed me.
- <sup>18</sup> You have taken my companions and loved ones from me;  
the darkness is my closest friend.

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## GROWTH GROUP DIGGING DEEPER QUESTIONS

To catch the weekend message, go to the MTC App, or [MissionTrailsChurch.com](http://MissionTrailsChurch.com).

### GETTING STARTED

1. **GROUP LEADER:** Since life is a bit out of the ordinary right now, feel free to take 10-15 minutes to catch up at the beginning of your meeting.

### DIGGING DEEPER

2. **Was there anything about this week's online sermon that was encouraging, inspiring, challenging or confusing?**

3. **READ Psalm 88:1-2, 6-18**

**When you read this Psalm, what is one BIG takeaway that you have?**

**And why do you think it's important that a Psalm like this is in the Bible?**

### GETTING PERSONAL

4. **If you have had a time of long darkness:**

- Briefly describe it...
- How did you get out of it?
- And what do you think God did in you through it?

### BRINGING IT HOME

5. **What are practical applications you can learn from this Psalm for how to relate to God in the midst of dark times and suffering?**

6. **In light of the passage we've read, or sermon from this past weekend, what is one point of action or application you need to take in your life this next week?**

Or...

**What is one thing the Holy Spirit is leading you to do?**

### PRAY TOGETHER