



## Psalms for Life

**Daily Readings:** (10/3 - 10/9) **Psalms 64-70**

**Sermon:** *From Burden to Abundance* (Psalm 66)

**Summary:** God brings us into meaningful depth with him not through ease but through difficulty. It is tears, not smiles, that form the anvil on which solid joy in God is forged. We thank God for the mountaintop experiences with him. But it is in the valley where we find him nearest and dearest to us.<sup>1</sup> The burden we face in the valley gives way to the abundance we receive on the mountaintop. Ask the Lord to walk with you in whatever valley you walk. Wait on the Lord to provide the abundance on the mountaintop you seek.

**Memory Verse:**

Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer  
or removed his steadfast love from me!

**Psalm 66:20**

### **Psalm 66**

How Awesome Are Your Deeds  
To the choirmaster. A Song. A Psalm.

- [1] Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
- [2] sing the glory of his name;  
    give to him glorious praise!
- [3] Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!  
    So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.
- [4] All the earth worships you  
    and sings praises to you;  
    they sing praises to your name." Selah
  
- [5] Come and see what God has done:  
    he is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.
- [6] He turned the sea into dry land;  
    they passed through the river on foot.  
There did we rejoice in him,
- [7] who rules by his might forever,  
    whose eyes keep watch on the nations—

let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah  
[8] Bless our God, O peoples;  
let the sound of his praise be heard,  
[9] who has kept our soul among the living  
and has not let our feet slip.

## 1. Shout for Joy to God, All the Earth

Joy to the world!

Jesus is our Joy!

[20] Truly, truly, I say to you, you will weep and lament, but the world will rejoice. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy. [21] When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. [22] So also you have sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. [23] In that day you will ask nothing of me. Truly, truly, I say to you, whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. [24] Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.

**John 16:20**

[10] For you, O God, have tested us;  
you have tried us as silver is tried.  
[11] You brought us into the net;  
you laid a crushing burden on our backs;  
[12] you let men ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and through water;

## 2. A Crushing Burden on Our Backs

What is a crushing burden?

How do you handle crushing burdens?

yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

Some day you will see the glory of God in the things which you do not understand.

James H. McConkey

- A Place of Abundance
- What is abundance?
- How do you handle abundance?

[13] I will come into your house with burnt offerings;  
I will perform my vows to you,  
[14] that which my lips uttered  
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.  
[15] I will offer to you burnt offerings of fattened animals,  
with the smoke of the sacrifice of rams;  
I will make an offering of bulls and goats. Selah

[16] Come and hear, all you who fear God,  
and I will tell what he has done for my soul.

[17] I cried to him with my mouth,  
and high praise was on my tongue.  
[18] If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,  
the Lord would not have listened.  
[19] But truly God has listened;  
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.

[20] Blessed be God,  
because he has not rejected my prayer  
or removed his steadfast love from me!

### **3. Prayer is Key in Handling Burdens and Receiving Abundance.**

#### Life Application Questions

1. What is a crushing burden?
2. Describe a time when you faced a crushing burden. What lessons did you learned from carrying the burden?
3. What does it mean to receive or have abundance?
4. Describe a time when you received abundance. What lessons did you learned from receiving/having the abundance?
5. How does God use burdens in our lives? What role can prayer have in times of carrying crushing burdens?
6. How does God use abundance in our lives? What role can prayer have in times of receiving/having abundance?
7. PRAY: Ask the Lord to help you, your family and friends handle burdens in light of God's abundance!

<sup>1</sup> Dane Ortlund, *In the Lord I Take Refuge*, p. 179.