

Harris Creek Baptist Church
Grant Troutt
Series: Soundtracks
August 6, 2023

Stuck in a Dark Place?

Psalm 143

¹ Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness! ² Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you. ³ For the enemy has pursued my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead. ⁴ Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled. ⁵ I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands. ⁶ I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. *Selah* ⁷ Answer me quickly, O Lord! My spirit fails! Hide not your face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the pit. ⁸ Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. ⁹ Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord! I have fled to you for refuge. ¹⁰ Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground! ¹¹ For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble! ¹² And in your steadfast love you will cut off my enemies, and you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul, for I am your servant.

How are we doing? So good to see you guys. My name is Grant if we have not met yet, my wife and I are new to Waco. My life was radically transformed in Dallas, Texas through a young adult ministry that the head pastor of this church (JP) was leading. Just a beautiful tie that, we get married, and we moved to Waco, and now I'm getting to serve here on staff with the young adults of Harris Creek. Just tremendously blessed to be here with you guys.

One thing to know about me is that I am not an outdoorsman, and to whatever you're thinking go 10 levels deeper, I am not an outdoorsman. With that context, I was in my full rebellious years of high school, and my parents came to me, and they just said, "Grant, we're sending you to camp." And I was like, "please don't send me to summer camp, the spiders, the bugs, I don't want to go." And they sent me to camp. I remember being there, it's Kanakuk Camps, which is an amazing camp. I was shooting bow and arrow, I loved *Lord of the Rings* at the time, so I was like, 'this is cool'. And I shot my first gun. I was like, 'okay!' I was doing the waterslides, all the chants, and then one day, I'll never forget it. It was just like fateful day, the guide walks into our cabin, and he says, "Hey, guys, it's Cave Day." And I was like, "Cave day, what is cave day?" All the other kids start like whispering and talking and they're getting excited. And I'm like, 'what is cave day'? And I'm thinking, 'okay, you know what, maybe we drive five minutes, we show up, and we like write our names in chalk on this cave'. We drive 45 minutes to this massive mountain. And I'm like, 'okay, are there spiders'? You know, I'm going through the whole thing, I don't like the outdoors. But I show up, and they put us in a full-on onesie jumpsuit, new moccasins, they're walking us through, 'hey, if you get lost, or your light goes out, just scream'. I'm like,

'just scream?! what? where are we going?' And you know, I'm starting to get nervous. Just to get into this cave, you have to army crawl this diagonal way up into this little window just to get into the cave. And so, there's a guy in front of me, a guy below me, and I'm inching my way up this cave, and you only have a little bit of room to turn. I can only turn my head. So as I'm getting nervous, I turn my head, and there is a full-on bat hanging right in front of my face, a full bat. And I was like, 'forget spiders, like bats!?' And I can't move, so I'm like, 'oh my gosh'. I don't want to wake him up, because he only has this way to go. He can't go anywhere. And so, I'm inching my way out of this. Finally, I get in the cave, and I'm like, 'okay, you know what, we're here, guys, it's time to go back'. We go three fourths of a mile through this cave, all the way to the back. And we're like, Army crawling, we're going through different things, and I'm just thinking, 'this is my worst nightmare'. We get to the back and all of a sudden, the guide stands up and he goes, "Okay, guys, I have something for all of us to do." He said, "On the count of three, we're all going to turn our lights off." I was like, 'that's a bad. . . that's not a good idea, it's not fun, let's not do that'. Anyways, he says "One, two, three, boom." And when you're three fourths of a mile in the back of a rock, this is like pitch black. If someone was right in front of your face, you can't feel, or hear, see anything. All my senses are just fired up right now. You can't taste anything, either. So, I'm just sitting there, and I'm like, 'this is not good'. And the guide goes, "Okay, here's what we're going to do. It's on you to get yourself out of this cave." And immediately I'm starting to feel fear, and disorientation and, all of a sudden I lose my sense of direction. And everybody's kind of starts freaking out.

And I start there today, because I think there's a lot of us if you're not there now, you have been. We've found ourselves in the caves and the darkness of life. And when we find ourselves in those moments, all of a sudden, the path out feels very disorienting. We don't know how to get out. And I know there's a lot of different dark trials and pains represented in this room. And I don't want to stand up here and say, 'I understand everybody's pain in this room', because I don't. I know personally, people in this room that have lost loved ones. I know there's infertility in this room. I know there's parents that have been divorced that has wrecked you. I know there's job loss in here. I know there's body image. I know there's storms in life that maybe no one can see, right? It's the things underneath the surface, suicidal thoughts, anxiety, depression. I know that is all represented in this room. And I want to speak with deep empathy today because I don't understand exactly what you're going through, but I know that there's a God Almighty that does, and He's with you. And as we continue in the series called Soundtracks, we're going to study Psalm 143 today, where David himself has found the overwhelming spirit of 'I can't make it out'. And so, if you're there here or if you're there now or if you have been, we all know that this is an unavoidable aspect of life.

And so, turn with me to Psalm 143. The subject this morning is going to be what to do when you're stuck in a dark place. And so, the author David, if you're new to church is this shepherd boy that's been turned King and he's King over Israel. And what many scholars have studied and understood about this Psalm specifically, is that this was when he was running from his son Absalom. And so Absalom was his son, was the future heir of the throne, and he said, "You know what, I'm done waiting, I'm going to gather the Israel army, and we're going to turn on my dad, and we're going to run him out of the palace, and I'm going to kill him." And so, I don't

know what you're going through today, but where David's at is 'I have not only lost a son, but my son wants to kill me'. And the men that I have left on my side are saying, "If you want to survive, you need to murder your son." And he's in this tormenting place of: 'God Almighty, what do I do? How do I find my way out of this cave?' And so, we're going to start in verse one, and we're going to read the first couple of verses. So it says this,

¹ Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness! ² Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you. ³ For the enemy has pursued my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead. ⁴ Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled.

Your story may not look like your son chasing you, hiding in a literal cave. But I think we can all agree that we've found moments in our lives where we go, 'I don't have words for how my spirit feels. I don't have words for the loss of that loved one'. Because grieving can look like a lot of different things. Grieving is, is mourning the loss of something or someone that you love. And I know there's even parents in here that are grieving the new chapter of life, which is empty nester, there's different levels of grief. But we all go through grief. So, the first thing that we're going to look at today is point number one, David, when stuck in the cave of darkness, is we bring our troubles to God.

1. *We bring our troubles to God*

And I want to point something out. And we look at that first one, verse one, we see two exclamation marks after his point. And what's interesting, I learned this this week, as scholars begin to translate the Bible, did you know that in the original Hebrew and Greek, there was no spacing, there was no punctuation, there was no vowels. And so, as translators began to translate the Bible, they had to *really* study the tense, the tone, and the meaning of what the communicator was trying to write. And so, as we see these exclamation marks, what we're seeing is that David is not saying, "God, please, he's like, "God, *please!* You *have* to answer me! You *have* to show up!" Notice how David responds in desperation, he turns to God.

I know you're thinking 'Grant, that's your big, amazing point one?' I think it's harder than we think it is. Because the power of prayer is something we don't grasp as a church. And I'll say, first and foremost, I don't take advantage of the power of prayer like I should. And so, what does it mean to bring your troubles to God? It's to go to Him in prayer. The first word David says is "**Hear my prayer, oh, Lord**". And I think if we're honest, it's much, much easier to pick up your phone and go to your friend, then to get on your knees and say, 'God, I need you'. There is power in prayer. That's what we see David do first. And so, the question is: Who or what do you turn to when you are in despair? When bad news comes, when fear comes your way, when you're desperate, where are you turning? Because who or what you turn to, first reveals who or what you trust the most. So, in that moment, who or what you turn to first reveals who or what you trust the most.

And this is why it's not as easy to go to God. It's because of Genesis Three. So, what happened there is Adam and Eve took the fruit, disobeyed God, sin enters the world, therefore, what used

to be completely natural, satisfied, and comforted in God we now seek to find it and people, places, and things. And so, when we hit these moments, everything in our sin nature doesn't say 'Go to God'. It says 'Find it in people, places and things'. That's why we numb. That's why alcohol. That's why pornography. That's why drugs. That's why eating. That's why Netflix. That's why it's so rampant is because the natural response is not God. It's everything I can see touch and feel. And David is saying, first watch me in the midst of this tormenting pain, I'm going to bring it before the Lord.

Recently, I was convicted about this, I've dealt with panic attacks the last couple of years. And what this has done in my life is I get really scared of flying. And I'll have really sweaty palms and I just start to get really nervous. And so, I really just tried to fly with people I know. Because it can make it kind of easier to talk to the person. And if I don't know you, I'm the guy that's like, "Hey, man, can we talk?" People will have headphones in and I'll be like, "Do you want to talk. man?" And they're like, "What?" I just need to talk. And I was recently convicted because if I didn't know someone, and I wasn't talking to someone, I would usually text my wife or my friends, and I would just stay busy. And I would just say, "Hey, can you pray for me? Can you pray for me?" Then all of a sudden, on a plane one time the Lord was like, 'you've put your trust in man and not in Me'. And I was like, "No, God, I'm going to community. And they're actually praying for me. It's so spiritual." He's like, he goes, 'no, you've put your trust in man, and not in Me'. He says, "You go to them first before you go to Me." And what is that in your life where it may even feel spiritual, community is not a bad thing. But are we going to God first? The scary thing is, I think we pick up our phone way before we go to the Lord. And there's power and purpose in prayer.

There's a very, very valuable lesson David teaches us in his prayer. First, he says hear it, and then at the end of verse one and verse two, he says, **in your faithfulness, answer me in your righteousness**. Okay, notice these words. He doesn't say "God, because I've been faithful, because I've been obedient. I've been pure. I've been going to church." He says, "No, no, the reason you should answer me God is because You are faithful, and You are righteous." When we pray, I think for me most often I'm going 'God, the reason you should answer this is because of me'. And David says, "Not because of me, but because of You. You need to answer me." The Hebrew word for faithfulness is *emunah*, which is translated as *steady*. This concrete confidence that he has that you're steady. And so, when life feels shaky, when there's nothing to stand on, he says, 'You are faithful, despite me; in your faithfulness, in your righteousness.'

He says, "**Enter not into judgment with your servant for no one living before you is righteous.**" This, most scholars believe that this was right after David had his moment with Bathsheba. And so, if you don't know what that means, David was king of Israel, and his men were out at war, and as he walked on the roof one day saw this lady bathing, and he knew it was the wife of one of his main generals. He didn't care, sent for her, had sex with her, she got pregnant. He starts to freak out. He goes, 'how do I cover this up'? He brings Uriah back, her husband. And he says, "Hey, will you sleep with her?" He's like, "I will not sleep with my wife right now. My men are at war". So, David ultimately writes his death wish. And he says, "Hey, General, I want you to deliver this message to your commanding officer." And it said, basically,

'I want you to pull back from Uriah and let him die'. And so, as David is penning this psalm, this is off the heels of adultery, murder, lying. And so, I'm not sure what your track record is, but David goes, 'I don't need you to answer me or hear me because of me because I know what I've done. I need You to be in step with Your character, which is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love'. So maybe where you're at today was actually part of your own sin that led you there. You're in good company. Because David was a man after God's own heart. The guy I just described. God said "You're a man after my own heart." Not because of his track record, but because he was committed to his God. We're not going to be perfect. Bring it before God.

I've got a really good friend who was a groomsman in my wedding. And this just struck me as I was writing this message on the power of going to God in our grief. And so, when he was in eighth grade, his dad went to be a part of a triathlon. And when it came to the swimming part, he jumped in the water and because of how cold it was, he went into cardiac arrest. He had a heart attack and died in the water. My friend is in eighth grade. He's watching over his little brother and his little sister. And he's waiting for his mom and dad to come home. And he sees this little thing on the news. And it just says, "Austin native passes in triathlon" and all of a sudden fear overtakes his body. His mom's not answering her phone. Seven hours later, his mom walks in the room being held by her two best friends as she's weeping and says, "Your father passed away." He was 42 years old. Fast forward, I meet my friend, five years later, and two years ago, we were all hanging out as a family and his younger brother was there. And a week later, Sam gets a call, says, "Your younger brother has passed away." Boom, like that. And here's what I'll never forget, I'll never forget, as we showed up to the airport, and he got off that plane, and he just collapsed into me and my friend's arms, and I'm holding him and I'm going, 'what do you what do I say?' Like, what could you say? And he got up three days later at the funeral and he said this, he said, "I don't understand. I can't say that God is amazing right now. But here's what I can say. When I have nothing to cling to, I am choosing to cling to Jesus." And in front of almost a thousand people, he shared the gospel that no matter what I suffer, I am choosing to believe that my God is good. And he brought his grief, just like we see David, right before a loving Father. You don't have to understand to bring it to God. But you do have to choose to do that. You're going to be at a crossroads: do I go and find it in the world or do I bring it before God in prayer? So when you're feeling helpless, discouraged, or overwhelmed, point number one is bring our troubles before God.

Let's keep reading. verses five and six says this, there's this switch in David's mindset. Now he goes, **⁵ I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands. ⁶ I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. *Selah***

So, David switches this mindset from focusing on the trials of the present, to remembering the character of God in the past. And so, David is bringing you into this moment, as he's feeling overwhelmed, he starts to close his eyes and he goes, 'despite what I feel, okay God, You took me as a shepherd to a king. You delivered me from the paw of the lion and the bear. You kept me safe when Saul came after me. And for 13 years of my life, I hid in caves, You were there.

You brought me through, through all those victories as King of Israel, you brought me through.’ And so, David is starting to remind himself that as I can't see it, now, I'm going to remember, and that's going to stir a belief in me. And so, what our job is, is that when you can't understand it, you have to remember who He has been for you. You have to remember, you have to go back. Okay, from my life Grant, He set you free from alcohol, He delivered you from drugs. When you lost your sport in college, and you had an identity crisis, He rescued you. When you had six, back-to-back-to-back surgeries, and you didn't understand why on your body, He delivered you. And when you had panic attacks for three years straight crying in your closet, He brought you through. So, what I go through now, I don't understand it, but I'm going “God Almighty, I've seen You do it. And You'll do it again. You'll do it again.” So, David almost talks himself into victory. Do you ever notice when you read David, it's like you're almost a little too sure God's going to show up for you? I'm like, is it arrogant? He's like, ‘the Lord *will* deliver me for my enemies’. And I'm like, how do you get there? I think it's because he closes his eyes, and he says, “You've never failed me yet. Why would you start now?” So yeah, You will deliver me God. And it may not look like *how* I want or *when* I want, but You will. And it's going to be for my good and your glory God. And so, if you're in this moment, and it feels dark, and you're going ‘what's my next step’? Simply remember.

Someone taught me this three weeks ago, and it's actually started to just transform my life. So, I still deal with panic attacks and anxiety. And so, I wake up and it's a daily thing. It is a daily thing, it brought me to the emergency room five different times in the past, and it is not something that is light in my life. And he said, “Hey, before you wake up, Grant, before you pray before you drink, or right after you wake up, I want you to just go and sit with God.” And so, what this looks like for me in my day is I get up and I go to my living room, and I'll sit at the edge of my couch and I will look out my window and I'll just watch from about 5:50 or 6:00 to about 6:20. And I'll watch the sun rise. And I'm not praying, I'm not reading, I'm sitting still and I'm thinking about God. And in a world that tells me, “Grant if you're behind, or if you need to, like catch up, or you need to do all this, it's more podcasts, right? Read more, study more YouTube videos.” And there's something I've been seeing about stilling my soul, as I begin to watch Creation wake up. I see the sunrise, I see the birds, I see the trees. It's like the world is saying, “Good morning, God.” And it makes me feel in that moment, really, really small. It elevates God to this really big God. And I'm like, You hold the whole world in your hand, You can handle my situation.

There's power to remembering, but also David says, **pondering the work of your hands**. And so, I think there's power for us as a church to go, ‘I need to slow down’, and sometimes Bible reading can wait, even prayer can wait, which was my point one, I just need to focus on the Creator and what He's done, and that stirs something within me. And so, when you feel stuck in the cave of darkness, point number two, remember all that God has done.

2. *Remember all that God has done.*

It's in the quiet, still meditative moments where God downloads his voice into your heart. It's where he fills your cup. It's where God truly begins to speak to you. It's almost like you're tuning

to His radio station, when you're quiet and you're still and you focus on who He is. Verse six says this, **6 I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.**

Instead of worry, we worship. And sometimes that looks like we have to physically lift our hands. There's so many Sundays, I'll walk in this room, and whatever's going on in life has me thrown off. And I'm like, the last thing I want to do is worship God. But have y'all ever heard doctors talk about, 'hey, if you're having a bad day, smile, and it can change the way you feel'? You can trick your body into thinking you're happy. I believe there's power in what David is talking about. Sometimes all we need to do is just go, despite where I'm at, despite what I feel, I will worship You. Because you are God. And I am not, and whether I feel like it or not, I will lift my hands in worship. There have been times in my closet where I don't know what to do, going through that panic, and I will just lift my hands. I'll go, 'God, I got nothing else.' There's no friend right now. There's no verse right now, that's going get me through it. I'm just going to worship you. And there's a song called, That's the Thing About Praise, it says, "sometimes the only way through it is a hallelujah." That's all we got sometimes is to lift our hands in praise. Remember all that God has done. Let's keep reading.

Okay, a lot of Scripture right here, verse seven, **7 Answer me quickly, O Lord! My spirit fails! Hide not your face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the pit.** **8 Let me hear in the morning** (there is that morning), **of your steadfast love, for in . . . not people, not things, for in you I trust.** (Reminding himself) **Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.** **9 Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord! I have fled to you for refuge.** There's the shift right here in verse 10. **10 Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!** **11 For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!** **12 And in your steadfast love you will cut off my enemies, and you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul, for I am your servant.**

Notice in verse 10, David says, "**Teach me to do your will**", in the pain and trials of life. Point number three, when you're stuck in the caves of darkness, *do what God asks of you.*

3. Do what God asks of you.

I think if I'm David right now, I'm not saying "God teach me to do Your will." I'm like, "God teach me to know why this is happening." We're so intrigued by the mysterious, kind of unrevealed will of God, but I don't think we do what He's already commanded us to do. God has left the Bible for us. And so often I'm like, God, what's my purpose in 10 years? Like, where am I going? Make sense of all this. And He's like, "Grant, I want you, just like David, to do what I've already commanded you to do." Which is honestly *really* hard. But there's so many times in the Bible the Lord's like, "Grant, you're asking for all that, but are you loving your enemy? Are you walking in a life group looking to encourage? Are you being humble and serving to your wife? Even the simple things, like I'm walking by piece of trash and I'm like, 'it's not my trash, that's not my place'. And the Lord's like, "No, no, I've called you to make the space around you beautiful, pick that up." And it's the small, daily yeses to God. That is what doing His will looks like. "For your name's sake", David says, "and your steadfast love", small, ordinary moment to moment obedient yeses to God. Like at any moment, in your day, you'll face a crossroads, and it's: do I choose what I want to do or what would be honoring to God? And it's taking those yeses

to God, and no's to your comfort, your comfort and your flesh. "Teach me to do Your will, God", David says. In Life Group, confessing that small sin with your spouse. I think sharing our faith is a big one. It's like man, I was in an Uber the other day, with my wife, and I just like I didn't share. And I started the conversation, and I'm sitting here and it's like, 'God, man why? Like it's not, I want to honor you in this.' It's a struggle. But David says, "Teach me to do Your will, let your good spirit lead me on level ground." He asked to be spirit-led. So how do we do it? By the power of his good spirit. He asked to be spirit-led. Hebrews 5:7-9 says this, talking about Jesus, **⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. ⁸Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he suffered. ⁹And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him.**

He was heard because He feared God and revered God, but He learned obedience through what He suffered. I think a lot of us in this room, in the midst of suffering, the last thing we're focusing on is obedience. But that's how God usually uses it. In the midst of 'why is this so hard', He's teaching and tuning our hearts to obey when we don't feel like it. He learned obedience through what He suffered. If Jesus did, how much more do you and I? Through all that suffering, God doesn't waste pain. Psalm 56, David says "He catches every tear in a bottle". So, if it's not *good*, God is not done. If your situation is going, 'I don't understand it'. Wait on the Lord. Bring it before God. Remember who He is. And lastly, do all He's asked you to do. That is the three simple steps that we see David in the back of a dark cave going, "when I don't know what to do, here's what I'm going to do." And I think it's so simple, but very profound. In the way God wants to use you and I in the midst of our dark caves of life, is even in suffering, He is going, "I still want you to bear fruit. Even in your suffering, I haven't put you on the sideline." And so, I think as a collective, it's time to rise even in the midst of suffering and go "God, I don't understand it, but through your good spirit, lead me on level ground. I don't want to be stuck in this cave." He has so much more for us.

The last verse, David says this "**For I am your servant.**" And I love that he just has this right understanding of who he is before God where He just says, "I am not my own anymore." And for us who have been bought by the precious blood of Jesus, the Bible says, "For you are not your own. You have been purchased. Therefore, you're not master of your own life anymore. God Almighty is." I think it's a daily reminder for us to go, "I am Your servant, I am Your servant. You don't work for me. I am Your servant." And there's power in reminding yourself even in the midst of pain that God Almighty has you and He's called you. And in the midst of the cave, He still wants you to walk in obedience.

So, what's your next step? In summary, point number one, we bring our troubles to God and this can be as simple as five minutes in the morning, getting on your knees. This can look like prayer cards. But I want to encourage you today to go to God and prayer first. Go to Him in prayer first, prayer changes things. It says you do not have because you do not ask. And I don't think He was just joking. And I don't want to get to Heaven and the Lord be like, "Man, I offered you this. And this was really what prayer was, and like you didn't use it." I want to test him when he says

“Ask, seek, and knock.” Like, if I overshoot at least I overshoot. I didn't undershoot it. Point number two, remember all that He's done. When you can't see it right now remember what He's brought you through. Go back there. You were faithful then, You'll be faithful today. I just want to remind somebody, He is faithful, He will do it again. He will do it again. He's done it before, He'll do it again. In your situation, as you remain faithful, He will do it again, in His timing. There's hope in that, we have a living hope in that. God does not leave his children alone. And point number three, we do what God asks us to do. We're faithful, we're obedient. When it doesn't make sense, one foot in front of the other, we walk in obedience.

To wrap up, in the midst of that cave, finally, the guide stood up, and he turned on his headlight. And I was like, ‘Okay, all right. So we don't have to get out on our own’. And he goes, “Hey, guys, here's the deal, here's what we're going to do. Only I am going to be the one that keeps my light on.” And he says, “If we're going to get out of this cave, I need you to stay glued to my light. I need you to look at my light. And I need you to listen to my voice as I lead us out of this cave. You're never alone in your cave. There is the Light of the World, the Savior, Jesus Christ, that will always be with you in your cave. And the Bible says, “He is a light unto my feet and a lamp unto my path.” The Bible says, “He will always light our way.” And so right now if you feel like there's no hope, there is hope in Jesus Christ. If you don't know Jesus, and you're here for the first time at church going, “I don't even know how I got here.” Jesus is our light. He changed my life. I should not be standing up here right now. I should not be talking to you about Jesus. I almost overdosed twice. I was in jail. God Almighty saves. He redeems. But He didn't save us, just to save us. He set us on a mission. And so even in the midst of our cave, as we follow the light, others are there with us. They're in line, you're encouraging others. That's what the church is all about. And if you're here today, and you're going through a situation in your cave, where you're like, “I don't know how I'm going to get out.” That's why the church exists. We'll be down front for prayer. We'd love to talk to you. Life is not easy, and we weren't meant to go through it alone. But Jesus Christ is our light.

And so let me pray in response. Father, I pray for just the person right now that feels like their situation is very dark. And they don't understand how or why you allow this. God Almighty, I pray right now that you would just speak in a supernatural, Heavenly Father way to their heart. And you would remind us, Lord, that no matter what it looks like, you will never leave us or forsake us. I pray God that you would remind us, you delight when we come to you and drop off all that we're going through. You delight as a toddler comes to a parent, you delight in it, Lord. I pray God that we would remember who you've been all these years. You showed up for Abraham, you were there for Isaac, you were there for Jacob, you will be there for me God. And lastly Lord, help me to take that next step of obedience, whether that is to confess, whether that is to cut something out of my life, Lord. Whatever that next step is I pray that we wouldn't leave this place until we've made it. Thank you, Jesus that you are in the cave with us. You are our leader, we trust you. In Jesus name, Amen.