

Thy Lovingkindness Is Better Than Life Psalm 63

1 ¶ <<A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.>> "O God, thou art my God; *early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; 2 To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.*"

David is in a wilderness place. We are not told the exact place or time. It could have been when Saul was seeking to kill David, or when Absalom his son was seeking to kill him. However, that really does not matter for us to get the picture. King David is in a wilderness far from the sanctuary of God. He has a great desire to be back where the sanctuary is so that he may worship God as he has been taught. If you have ever been long away from your church home in a wilderness place you can witness with King David's desires expressed in this chapter. If in your walk as a Christian, you have been in a wilderness place, spiritually, you can witness with King David, in desiring to feel the nearness of God's presence once more.

"*early will I seek thee:*" David reveals here our commandment in the New Testament scripture in: ***Mt 6:33*** "***But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.***" Why did king David seek God early in life and in the morning? Because God had revealed himself to David, as a young lad, when he was keeping the sheep. God had demonstrated to David while he was keeping the sheep, his great delivering power in the slaying of the bear, and the lion, who came to steal and kill a sheep. King David had experienced the saving power of God in his life so many times, that his whole being thirsted after God to be in his life. David tells us that when God is not present with me it is like being in the desert with no source of water to drink from.

David goes on to tell us that he has seen God in the sanctuary. Did he see God face to face? No; David had seen God in the sanctuary by divine revelation. If you have ever experienced the presence of God in worship in the church congregation, you know what David means by "***To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary.***"

3 ¶ "Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. 4 Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name."

Lovingkindness has the meaning of *kindness, beauty, favour, goodliness, goodness, mercifulness, pity*. David understands that the lovingkindness of God is better than life itself. David had experienced God's lovingkindness in the revelation of God to himself, in the reproof of God in his errors, in the mercy of God for forgiveness of his sins, in the revelation to David that without the lovingkindness of God, my life is nothing.

Because he understands this; David says: Even now, as I am in this wilderness place in my life, I will draw near to thee, and I will praise you with my lips. David says: I will stretch my hands toward the heavens where you dwell, expecting you to take them in protection of my soul, and to hold me fast in your bosom. If we understand the lovingkindness of God to usward we too will praise the Lord.

5 "My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: 6 When I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches."

Marrow means: *to be fat; the richest or choice part*. David tells us; Only, when God is in my life, is my life filled with the abundance of mercy and grace from God. Today, we think of marrow as the marrow of the bone. We understand the marrow is the central core of the bones of the body, where our life blood is produced. If this marrow does not work properly; we are not healthy but sickly. The same is true in your life as a Christian. The source of our spiritual lives is in the source of the life blood, Christ Jesus, our Redeemer.

When we are in sync with the presence of "**Christ in you**" we are filled with the abundance of God's great mercy and grace. Because of this abundance in our lives, we are caused to give praise to God with joy and to desire his presence both day and night. When we are in sync with ourselves, we are out of sync with God, and thus we are in a wilderness place.

7 ¶ "Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. 8 My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me."

King David says: I have dwelt under the shadow of God's abundant mercy and protection, as little chicks are protected under the mother hen's wings. God has enshrouded me in his loving kindness and protection. This makes my soul rejoice and causes me to seek God, continually, with my whole mind, body, and soul. This should be the so in every Christian's life.

9 "But those that seek my soul, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth. 10 They shall fall by the sword: they shall be a portion for foxes."

David tells us, from his experience of God's deliverance in his life, those who are against me are fighting against God. They shall not win for God is greater than all. His power is unlimited. David tells us; those who fight against God shall go down into the pit of hell. As they battle against God's people; they shall be slain by the sword of the Lord, and their carcasses shall be left for the beast of the earth to devour.

11 "But the king shall rejoice in God; everyone that sweareth by him shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped."

David tells us; God made me king over his people Israel. Because of his protection, care, and keeping; because of his great lovingkindness in forgiving my sins and errors in life, I rejoice in the Lord. David tells us that everyone that is complete (sweareth means *to be complete*) in God, shall glory in the Lord.

David gives us a final warning. He tells us that all others, who are not saved by the grace of God, those whose mouths are speaking lies, shall have their voices stopped. They will not render praise to God. They will no longer cry out against God, trying to defame his name and lead his people astray. We shall see the fulfillment of this prophesy in the end of time and the final judgment. When those whose mouths speak lies shall be eternally stopped and sent into the eternal lake of fire.

As this final warning is set forth; we also see the lovingkindness of God is set forth. We are told of the need of the new birth, which Jesus tells us must happen in **Joh 3:3** and **3:7**; "**Ye must be born again.**" Thus, we understand what David means in **Joh 3:3** "**Because thy lovingkindness is better than life.**" You see: King David believed in the resurrection of the dead, and understood that even if the body is dead, those who are in the lovingkindness of God shall see never die. Why? Because the lovingkindness of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus.

Now, we are not living in Old Testament times as king David was. We live in this present age of salvation by grace. If king David was so bolstered by the lovingkindness of God, how much more should we be encouraged in Christ Jesus. We have the New Testament scriptures, which reveal to us this glorious lovingkindness of God, through the finished work of Jesus Christ. We have the revelation that in the new birth, we inherit the very presence of Christ in us, and the knowledge that we have been given eternal life in Christ.

We can go to the New Testament and find scripture supporting these revelations to king David in: **2Pe 1:1** "**Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: 2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and**

virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." By the lovingkindness of God, we are "***partakers of the divine nature,***" which is given to us in the new birth.

We, like David, believe in the resurrection of the dead; for those who speak against God into eternal damnation; but for those who know the lovingkindness of God, to eternal life in Christ, in the place he has gone to prepare for us. Knowing, that we shall be raised from the dead in incorruptible and immortal bodies, like unto the resurrected body of Christ; we can say with David "***Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee,***" for ever and ever, Hallelujah! Amen!