

Daily Devotional, April 9, 2021 Give Thanks to the Lord and Praise Him

“You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.” Psalm 118:28-29 (NIV)

For those who may be wondering what day it is, today is Friday. I only remind you, because I find Laura and I reminding each other all the time, what day it is, or questioning what day it is. There was a time when Friday was the day for me to relax from the week, it was my official day off to unwind, and to be prepared for the coming Sunday, our day of church and worship. Now, we just call each day “today” they all seem the same, but the beauty of each day being the same, is that as confusing as it may be, each day is a day of praise, and there are moments in each of our “todays” that have helped us to have a hope for a better tomorrow.

Today, we read in the 118th Psalm, that the steadfast love of the lord endures forever. Again, and again we hear that phrase from the psalmists, they want us to always remember that even today, no matter how good, or how poor, how up or how down; today is a day that the steadfast love of the Lord endures. The steadfast love of the Lord endures forever. This phrase is a victory chant of Israel not for anything that they have, but because they know that everything good comes from the Lord their God.

A favorite old praise song of mine written by the now deceased Christian songwriter and praise leader, Rich Mullens, was the song, “Sometimes by Step” or “Step By Step”, which follows the 28th verse of Psalm 118. Perhaps you remember the words:

Sometimes the night was beautiful
Sometimes the sky was so far away
Sometimes it seemed to stoop so close
You could touch it but your heart would break
Sometimes the morning came too soon
Sometimes the day could be so hot
There was so much work left to do
But so much You'd already done

Oh God, You are my God
And I will ever praise You
Oh God, You are my God
And I will ever praise You
And I will seek You in the morning
And I will learn to walk in Your ways
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days

Sometimes I think of Abraham
How one star he saw had been lit for me
He was a stranger in this land
And I am that, no less than he
And on this road to righteousness
Sometimes the climb can be so steep
I may falter in my steps
But never beyond Your reach

Today, as we come to a close of the first week of Easter, we know that the Lord who raised Jesus from the dead, who is raising us to eternal life with Christ, is the Lord whose steadfast love endures forever. Today gets to be a day when we proclaim and acknowledge that love. The love that lifted us from the depths into life abundant and eternal.

I hope you remind someone, today, of the steadfast love of the Lord, that you remind someone of the joy of Easter that dwells in your heart. May we all speak words of encouragement, grace, and love to anyone whom we speak to. Perhaps remind your spouse, or your children, that the steadfast love of the Lord endures forever, and though we are stuck together, apart from others, that same steadfast love will see us through. The steadfast love of God did not abandon Jesus to the grave, nor will it abandon us now, for such love does endure forever lifting up our hearts even now to pursue life, to share life, to be united in God's love separately until such love gathers us together again. It will be soon!

Prayer: Praise be to God for today, one of the infinite "today's" in which his steadfast love endures; for his love endures forever. I thank you that you are my light shining in the darkness. When I don't know which way to turn, I can run to your light. Lord, shine your light on the dark places in my heart and mind. Guide my feet in the path of peace and blessing. When I am in the dark ravine of fear and discouragement, be my sunrise, bringing security and the knowledge of how to proceed. Keep me in your perfect will. Amen.