

Revive Us Again Psalm 85

Troublesome times like these bring despair easily

Rather than being overwrought we should turn to God

The writer of the 85th Psalm understood this

In his time, Israel had sinned and been sent into exile

He was desperate too, until he turned back to God

Four great principles stood out that lifted him from his despair

They will work in our life also, if we ask God to revive us again

God's Reward: Mercy Psalms 85:1-3

The author is probably writing while in exile with the people of God

He knows they have sinned, he begins to lift his spirits by remembering the great mercy God has shown in times past

He speaks of God's favor (grace) to the land

He speaks of the Exodus when God led Israel to freedom from Egypt

He speaks of God covering their sin and turning away His own anger

God had every right to be angry with His people

This is still a wonderful step to take when you face trouble

Look back & see how often God has helped His people

Gave Abraham a son, well past the age of bearing - **Genesis 21**

Raised Joseph to rule Egypt, when brothers sold as slave - **Genesis 39-45**

Saved Moses, to lift to prominence & lead Israel to promised land

Gave the land to Israel, in spite of many times they rebelled

This is the gracious God we serve today - **James 1:17**

Like the Psalmist, we can turn to Him now, even though we sin

God's Righteousness: Justice Psalms 85:4-7

Psalmist knows God is angry & the people deserve wrath, have sinned

Psalmist calls on God to be merciful, to reward with grace, not anger

But he knows they deserve God's anger - **Luke 13:5**

Not a popular theme today, but it's vital for us to acknowledge our sins

God has not changed, and He is still angered by our sin

When we choose to rebel against God, God still is moved to wrath.

Admitting sin & turning to God is not a good suggestion, it's a command - **Romans 1:18**

God's Requirement: Obedience Psalms 85:8-9

The writer knows what God wants

He seeks God's mercy, but then offers back to God what the Lord seeks from those who desire His mercy, obedience

First, the Psalmist says he will listen to God

This is the first step in getting out of misery & unhappiness you face

Seek God's mercy by promising to listen to what God says - **James 1:22-25**

Turning back to God is a wonderful thing for every person to do

But, everyone who wants God's mercy must be willing to listen & do

Second, the Psalmist says they will not return to their folly

Too often people seek God's grace, but not His righteousness

They want to be forgiven, but not changed

God wants us to listen to Him and He wants us to live for Him

We no longer live for ourselves, we live for the One who died for us

You cannot expect God's mercy and still live in your sin

Simply put, God wants our obedience

Although none of us can obey well enough to earn God's salvation, we still must strive to conform our lives to His standards

Salvation near, offered to those willing to give up sin & listen to God

God will rescue us from mistakes, only when we admit & turn away - **2Corinthians 5:14-15**

God's Reign: Peace Psalms 85:10-13

We began by noting that all of us face struggles through life

We seek happiness, and often find misery

We seek contentment, and often find strife

Psalmist understood peace & happiness only come when God is ruler

When we surrender to God, we finally find what we have been seeking

Peace comes with doing right; Kindness comes when we listen to God's truth and live His way;

Now, God will give what is good.

Until you surrender to God and His will, you will never be happy

Happiness doesn't come from money, good health, or strife-free home

It comes from serving God and thus being in fellowship with God

Paul says rejoice, experience fully happiness & satisfaction provided

We don't have to worry, but instead can be filled with a great sense of peace when we turn everything over to God

When give up & turn to God, even problems will not keep us from joy - **Philippians 4:4-7**

Come Back To God

The Psalmist wanted God to "revive us again" as His people

He knew God was merciful, He knew as well that God was holy

He decided he would listen to God, obey God and then he knew he would find the peace and happiness that had escaped him

What about you?

Are you ready to find peace in your home, in your heart?

Are you ready to experience lovingkindness in your life?

Only way to be happy is to turn life over to God by coming to Him.

He is ready to forgive & anxious to restore to you the joy of salvation

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