

When The Lord Works In Our Lives...

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for you lift up my soul. Rescue me from my enemies, O Lord, for I hide myself in you. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

(Psalm 143:8-10)

I made a copy of this verse and have it in my Day-Timer. I pull it out and pray it slowly and reflect on what I am asking of the Lord. In particular, I pray this when I feel discouraged. I want so much more of the Lord. I don't like my actions and words sometimes. I wish things would move on quicker. I get confused with what the Lord is doing. I'm tired and sometimes just need a good old change. I could go on and I'm sure you could too.

I have even found that when the Lord works in my life, I can get discouraged. Godly change does not feel good. The Lord wants to break habits in our lives. He wants to remove some of our worldly loves. He goes to the root of our personal problems that we don't want to deal with and it hurts. But Jesus wants each of us to allow him into every area of our lives. That is how he transforms us or changes us. I want to change and I want things to change, but when the process begins I don't like it.

When the Lord works in our lives he works to make us better. Better is to be more like Christ. But often in the process we don't look or feel better. We look more like a molting bird and feel like a mess. When we go through times like this, and we all do, do what David did. He invited the Lord in. He did not withdraw. He needed the assurance of God's love. We all do when God is working in our lives. So he prayed for evidence of that love every morning as he put his trust in the Lord. David also asked for the Lord to show him the way. Often our soul has a mind of its own. The invitation to bring the Lord into your deepest desires and lead you will produce a healthy heart.

David was also one who many times asked the Lord to rescue him. Here is the man who beat Goliath. He was a hero and an example to many, but David knew the source of his strength. David said, "My strength comes from the Lord," and he was one who quickly gave God the credit for his victories and he was also quick to go to the Lord in times of trouble. David was also one who asked for level ground. That level ground came to his life because he prayed for the Spirit to teach him to do God's will. Oh that we would all pray like that! This day, oh Lord, teach me to do your will!

Ask the Lord to teach you of his love, show you the way, rescue you from trouble and teach you to know and do his will. You will eventually see discouragement flee from your life. A downcast soul cannot abide in the life-giving flow from the heart of God.