

Hello everyone! And welcome to our Wednesday Word devotion for today, August 5, 2020. Thank you so much for tuning in and taking this time out of your day to focus on God and focus on your faith.

Thank you all too for your kind feedback on the psalm and prayer format that debuted last week! I will continue to do that format for the next few weeks, and if you have any requests for prayer or a psalm, please feel free to reach out and we can make that happen.

So for today, I am going to read for you Psalm 85, a comforting trust psalm.

Lord, you were favorable to your land;
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

2 You forgave the iniquity of your people;
you pardoned all their sin. Selah

3 You withdrew all your wrath;
you turned from your hot anger.

4 Restore us again, O God of our salvation,
and put away your indignation toward us.

5 Will you be angry with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

6 Will you not revive us again,
so that your people may rejoice in you?

7 Show us your steadfast love, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

8 Let me hear what God the Lord will speak,
for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

9 Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land.

10 Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

11 Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

12 The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.

13 Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.

The Word of the Lord.

And now please join me in a word of prayer:

God of all time and place, your steadfast love gives us comfort and strength and endures forever. We give you thanks for that unending love, the covenants you make with your people, that you give what is good. Help us to hear what you are speaking to us, that we will lean on your steadfast love and faithfulness, righteousness and peace. May our faith be strong, and let us open our hearts to the Word of peace you speak for us.

We live in an anxious time, dear Lord, as you know so well. We are anxious about the rapid uncertainty and hardships we face on a nearly daily basis. Help us as we make plans for the school and program years, to do what is best for our families, our livelihoods, our health and safety, Lord. Help us to lean on you and fill us with your holy comfort and peace, wherever our paths may lead.

We are anxious too about the pandemic we live in, this era of COVID-19. We pray for all who are researching this virus, who are developing treatments and vaccines, who work in healthcare in all capacities. Strengthen these people, affirm their gifts of healing, and comfort those who are ill and who grieve the loss of their loved ones due to this virus.

God be with all people who are sick and who grieve. For your healing power, the peace you speak into our spirits even in our hardest moments, we give you thanks, O God. May the promises of hope we find in the resurrection of your Son Jesus strengthen us and comfort us in all seasons of life.

And God, I pray for the people of this congregation, Mt. Zion. Thank you for the gifts and skills you have blessed them with, and thank you for this opportunity to be a church community together. With each other we are able to live out your commandments, to love you and love our neighbors, and thank you for the ways we are able to strengthen one another in faith. Hold all of us, your children, closely in your care. In your Son Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

And as we end our time today, please join me in the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever, Amen.

Thank you so much again for tuning in today! Have a beautiful rest of your day. Go in peace dear friends, Amen.