

PRAYING PSALM 88

“My eye wastes away because of affliction. Lord, I have called daily upon You: I have stretched out my hands to You” (Psalm 88:9).

This psalm describes the calamities of the writer. It is hard to imagine anyone would have enough nerve to speak to God in these words. 1. HE COMPLAINS TO GOD (1-9). The psalmist complains that God won't hear his prayer. My soul is full of troubles. My life draws near the grave. I am adrift among the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave. You have laid me in the lowest pit. Your wrath lies heavy on me. You have afflicted me. You have made me an abomination. I am shut up. I can't get out. 2. HE CHALLENGES GOD (10-12). What use to the dead are Your miracles? Do the dead get up and praise You? 3. HE CHARGES GOD (13-18). Lord, why do you cast off my soul? Your fierce wrath has gone over me. Your terrors have cut me off. You have taken away my companions and loved ones.

The psalmist felt hopeless and abandoned by God. We don't know the occasion of this psalm, but it speaks to the frustration of feeling ignored in time of sorrow. I'm not sure I could say these words, but from reading the psalm I understand them to be the fervent prayer of a righteous man. When you feel trapped, shut up, and afflicted, you can pray this prayer. When you believe the next step is death and there will be no help in the grave, you can use these words. When you believe God has been unfair and you are a child of rejection, tell the Lord. If we learn anything from this psalm, it is that God will listen when we talk, no matter what we have to say.