



1/7/26

I was listening to a message from Timothy Keller about prayer. I thought I would share with you something he said because it really impacted me. He explained that God is our Father, meaning that we're His children. And we don't always ask for things that are good for us because we often don't understand what's really good for us, just like a toddler doesn't understand what's good for him. Timothy Keller said, "When you ask God for something that isn't good for you, He will not give it to you, but He will respond to your need." As a good Father, God knows what's best for us, and He knows our needs better than we do. So when we ask for something that isn't good, He can see through to our need... and He takes care of that. He truly is a good, good Father. I hope that encourages you today.

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Psalm 107:1-22

As I read this passage that describes the incredible selfless, faithful love of the Lord, I think of all those who were destroyed in the flood. If even ONE of them had turned to the Lord over all the years of Enoch's prophecies and warnings, and all the years the people saw Noah building the ark, I know the ark would have had at least one more passenger.

Anyone who cries out to the Lord will receive His answer. He will never reject anyone who seeks Him. It is not God who rejects people. People reject God. Jesus said, "If ANYONE is thirsty, come to Me... If ANYONE is weary or burdened, come to Me... if ANYONE would come to Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me." Not one soul will cry out from hell, "I truly wanted the Lord, but He didn't want me." Not one. No, those who refuse to come to Him believe the cost of denying self, carrying a cross, and following Him is too great. But let me never forget that He denied HIMSELF for me. I carry my cross, but He died on His. I follow Him, but He emptied Himself and came for me.

Who will experience His steadfast, undying love? Not the perfect. They don't exist. Not the innocent. "There is none righteous, no not one" (Romans 3:10). Only those who are the

redeemed... who cry out to Him in faith because He is our only hope, and because His love is genuine. Let the redeemed thank the Lord.

Vs. 1-3 ~ Give thanks to the LORD, Yahweh. Why? He's good, pleasant, beautiful, gracious, kind... This Hebrew word encompasses so much more than the word "good." He is beyond anything I can know as good. His "chesed," His covenant loyalty, sacrificial, merciful, steadfast love never ever ends. It never ever fails. That is the absolute core of everything I need to know and believe about Him. If I trust God's goodness and love, what will I ever fear? What will I ever resent? What will I ever allow to shame me?

The LORD Yahweh has redeemed me. He is my Kinsman Redeemer. He has paid the debt that I could not pay. I was never worthy of His love. That's not what He looks at. He just loves me.

He gathered me to Himself. I have always struggled because I have a guess of when I asked Jesus to be my personal savior, but I'm not 100% sure if that was the day. I didn't have a massive emotional experience. I just knew He had become my Savior around the age of 7 or 8. But He has comforted my heart with these words. He gathered me to Himself. He took me as I was, a broken mess, but He did not leave me as I was.

Vs. 4-9 ~ Even as a believer, I wandered. I felt like I didn't belong anywhere, like even my salvation was a mistake. I was starving for love, thirsty for hope. I cried out to the Lord in the midst of trouble that I brought on myself, and He delivered me! He drew me up from the pit of destruction and set my feet on solid ground. He fed my soul. He led me to a place where I belong... in His presence. With Him, I am not an outcast. I am not forgotten. I am not the leftovers.

O Lord, I thank You for such amazing love that isn't measured by my worth... You give me my worth! You satisfy my longing soul. You fill my hungry soul with what is good, pleasing, beautiful, gracious, joyful. What a beautiful all encompassing Hebrew word... towb.

O Lord, please help me to look nowhere else for my satisfaction, or for food for my soul. You are my answer. Let me never stop crying out to You. You will never reject me!

Vs. 10-16 ~ O Lord, You know that I rebelled against You. I believed the words of a man over the word of God, and I called You a tyrant. It was the most miserable time of my life. I was in a prison of my own making. I willingly rebelled against You. I did not drift. I walked away. I rejected Your counsel. I ignored Your word. You allowed me to feel the weight of my rebellion. I felt isolated and alone. I fell down and thought You would never want to pick me back up again.

But I cried to You in my trouble and distress! You did not waste a moment! In a single burst of light, You delivered me from the darkness and from my prison! You shattered my chains in pieces.

I think of Your words from Zephaniah 3:17 and Psalm 32:7. You surround me with SHOUTS of deliverance, but You QUIET me with Your love. I thank You and praise You for Your steadfast love and Your wonderful works in my life. You have shattered the prison doors that I locked myself behind, and You split the bars in two... that voluntary prison is gone. Praise Your name!

Vs. 17-22 ~ O Lord, I was a fool. I may have believed a lie about You, but I stayed in my rebellion so that I could indulge the sinful desires of my flesh. I suffered for it. I was miserable. I was running farther and farther from You and nothing satisfied.

Through all my rebellion, You were never far off. You "waited to be gracious to me" (Isaiah 30:18). You reminded me along the way that You were still there. I finally cried out to You. You did not make me work my way back to You. You immediately delivered me from my anguish. You replaced my distress with joy in the blink of an eye. You brought healing and deliverance from pain and suffering that I brought on myself.

I am so thankful for Your undying, faithful love. I still struggle to grasp it, but I am absolutely confident that one day I will be in Your presence and I will spend forever experiencing the fullness of Your love that has always been true. O Lord, until then, I will be a living sacrifice to You. I will offer You my gratitude. Let me never forget the price You paid so that I could be with You. Let me never forget Your mercy, Your compassion, Your forgiveness, Your patience with me. I will never stop telling of Your works in my life that have brought me an everlasting joy.

No matter what I face on earth, I will never be a wanderer again. I have a home with You. I will never be hungry or thirsty again. You satisfy me with all that I need. I will never be a prisoner again. You shattered my prison doors. I am free. Free to love You. Free to talk with You. Free to run to You. Free to be in Your arms. Free to be close to Your heart. Free because I am redeemed by You and You alone. I praise You. Amen.