



1/8/26

*Okay... start to look for our Summit Point Women's study, Resolved, registration. It's coming very soon! You've got to look at all the detail of the graphic when you see it. Our graphics guys, Nick, does such a great job.*

*I'm really excited about this study!!! I'm looking forward to seeing what God is going to teach us.*

*Blessings,  
Jonna*

*Psalm 107:23-43*

*"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the Lord say so." Today, I continue through the rest of Psalm 107, but I can't move on to vs. 23 without reminding myself of the whole premise of this psalm. Everything I do, every breath I take, is in the security and peace of the goodness and steadfast love of Yahweh. That is His personal name. But I get to even call Him by a more personal name. I get to call Him "Abba, Dad." Why? As John 1:13 tells me, I was not born into this world as His child. I did not become His child based on my own will. I am not His child because of obedience to manmade systems or rules. I am His child because it was His will to send His Son to redeem me. There is no greater gift! He deserves my worship. With that in mind, I move on to the rest of the psalm.*

*Vs. 23-32 ~ Sometimes the goodness and love of the Lord is a blessing in disguise. Instead of comfort and ease, I see His power on display... and it can be terrifying. His wondrous works can be shown in massive storms and tsunami high waves. It can feel like I'm going to drown. But God doesn't allow these storms in order to ruin me. He allows them in order to help me lean on Him.*

*I think of Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 1:8-10, "For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. He*

*delivered us from such a deadly peril, and He will deliver us. On Him we have set our hope that He will deliver us again." I don't know why, but I always picture Paul and his coworkers in the gospel being thrown around by the wind and waves. God had a purpose in this. It was not to destroy Paul, but to teach Him to rely on the Lord for everything.*

*Is that cruel of God? No. If He knows that relying on anything or anyone else will fall short of what we need, and if He is in complete control of the wind and the waves and won't let them go a single millimeter beyond His purpose, then I can know that even the storms of life are blessings in disguise. 2 Corinthians 12:9 tells me that His grace, the generosity of His love, is what I need to be peacefully satisfied... not exemption from the storms.*

*What does it take to be saved from the storms? Do I have to earn His favor? Do I have to be good enough? What even IS good enough? No. The thing that brings God's shouts of deliverance is simply that I cry out to Him in my trouble. I don't try to be courageous in myself, but I find my courage in Him!*

*First, He delivers me from my distress... BEFORE He calms the storm. Why before? Because if He just calmed the storm without calming my anxiety first, I would just be freaking out about when the next storm might hit. "I know He calmed it before, but maybe this time He'll forget." But when He first calms my distress, then I learn that the storms have no power over Him. In essence, He calms the storm raging in my heart first... and then He stills the storm and calms the waves.*

*THEN He brings me to my "desired haven" where I find pleasure and delight and purpose. The truth is... When I learn to rely on the Lord and cry out to Him, I find that He's always faithful to answer... and then my desire and delight become the Lord... and not calm waters.*

*The wonderful thing about relying on the Lord is that I will ALWAYS be delivered from the storms, whether by life or by death. Physical death can't even crush me. If I live, I live for the Lord. If I die, I get to be in His presence forever. No matter what happens, I am secure. I will either thank Him and praise Him for His steadfast love and wondrous works in the presence of my family and my church, or I will thank Him and praise for His steadfast love and wondrous works in the presence of the angels and the believers who have gone before me into His throne room in heaven. If I live with this joy, nothing will derail my courage and faith. O Lord, let this truth be branded into my soul!!!*

*Vs. 33-42 ~ The Lord, who spoke the world into existence, has the power and authority to turn rivers into deserts, springs into thirsty ground, and a fruitful land into a salty waste. WHY WOULD HE DO THAT??? Because of the evil of those who live there. All the land belongs to Him. He has the right to do whatever He chooses. If someone tried to take over my home and destroy it, I would have the right to stop that person. This all belongs to God!*

*But let me not forget the context of this whole psalm. When God takes such drastic measures, His first purpose is to turn our hearts toward Him... to save us, not to destroy us. The question*

*is... Will I be so filled with pride that I refuse to cry out to God? Or will I humble myself, recognize who He is, and cry out to Him? He WILL deliver me.*

*Let me not miss the heart of God. He also turns deserts into pools of water and parched places into springs of water. He lets those who are hungry live there, be fruitful there, and multiply greatly... because of His blessing. No one DESERVES this gift from the Lord. But He blesses those who seek to satisfy their hungry soul in Him.*

*When people in power oppress the hungry with evil and suffering, God pours out His contempt on them. It is not those who love Him that experience His contempt. It's those who hate Him and seek to overpower weaker people. God raises up the afflicted out of their affliction. He gives them family, a place to belong.*

*This is so much more than biological family. This is the family of God! The church! When the righteous see God work and move and take down the evil of the world, they celebrate... not to see someone be removed from power, but to see evil end. When God speaks, ALL wickedness shuts its mouth. He has ALL power, ALL authority, ALL goodness. He IS love.*

*O Lord, I remember as a child, living through the constant storms of life, praying and asking You to someday give me a happy family. At the time, I just meant, "Please give me a husband who loves me and great kids." I had no idea that You were going to answer that prayer so far beyond all I could ask or imagine. Yes, I have a husband who loves me and I have wonderful kids. But I have so much more! My husband and my kids love YOU. And beyond that, I'm part of the family of GOD! I have a forever family that I will celebrate and cherish forever in heaven as ALL believers get to worship You and love You in Your presence... as Your kids. You are able to do so much more than I could ever fathom.*

*Vs. 43 ~ I love the Hebrew transliteration of this verse. It's one sentence... "Whoever is wise, let them observe, keep, and guard these things, and they will understand the "chesed" covenant loyalty love of the Lord." O Lord, it is only by Your wisdom that I can observe and cherish the truth of who You are. Please grow in me more and more of Your wisdom. Let my worship grow. Everything You do comes from Your heart of love. Holy, holy, holy is my God... my Abba... my Dad... my Redeemer... my Deliverer... my Salvation. Amen.*