

Psalm 103

¹ Jerry, pour out your heart in praise and adoration to the holy name of the LORD, Jesus Christ, the Messiah¹, and do it with all of your being. ² I say, pour out your heart in praise and adoration to the holy name of the LORD, Jesus Christ, the Messiah, and be sure to mention all of the ways that He has blessed you in the past and all the ways He has promised to bless you in the future – don't leave out a single detail! ³ He certainly deserves this kind of praise and more. After all, He is the One Who

1) forgives all of our sinful and depraved thoughts and actions when we are genuinely repentant,

2) makes us well and provides complete recovery from all of our diseases as He sees fit,

3) ⁴ buys us back from the pit of hell through the blood He sacrificed on the cross of Calvary,

4) encloses us within the limitless sphere of His tender love and kindness (in addition, He has a deep sympathy for us when we are hurting or oppressed, and during those trials He has a strong desire to come to our aid²), and

5) ⁵ satisfies all of our needs throughout all of our years so that our body becomes stronger and stronger and has more and more vigor. In a way, this strengthening is much like the way an eagle flies higher and higher into the sky and soars for long periods of time.

⁶ Everything the LORD does is absolutely moral, legal, ethical, just, and good. Each time He examines the plight of those of His who have been wronged, violated, defrauded, or physically hurt by violence, He does so with the same scrutiny as he does His own works. Every decision He makes about the circumstances they must endure or what the future holds for them is moral, legal, ethical, just, and good. ⁷ As an example of how He takes good care of those who are being wronged, He told Moses how He was going to rescue His oppressed people from their bondage in Egypt. Then He carried out that deliverance with miracles for all of the children of Israel to see and for all of their descendants to remember. ⁸ It may not be obvious during a hardship, but the LORD always has a deep sympathy for those of His own who are hurting or oppressed accompanied by a strong desire to come to their aid². In fact, He gives people ample opportunity to repent and forsake their sinful ways before He becomes angry with them, and throughout the whole process He abounds with tender love and kindness.

⁹ When He does become angry with us, He will not always be in opposition to us, nor will He be angry with us forever. ¹⁰ In reality, He has not disciplined us in direct proportion to the magnitude of our sins, nor has He punished us as our guilt deserves. ¹¹ You see, the Father's tender love and kindness toward those who fear Him is as vast as the expanse of the heavens. ¹² It was His love that sent Jesus Christ to die for our sins on the cross of Calvary so that by faith in Christ He has removed our sins from us as far as the east is from the west. ¹³ He has done so because He is compassionate. In the same way a father has a deep sorrow for the sufferings and troubles that come upon his children accompanied by a strong desire to come to their aid², so our heavenly Father has compassion upon those of His children who are experiencing hurts, heartaches, or losses. He does this for those who fear Him enough to abandon their sinful practices and do good. ¹⁴ He is kind to us in this way because He is fully aware that we are weak and frail humans formed out of the dust of the earth. ¹⁵ When it comes right down to it, man is merely a temporary being. In fact, his existence is as brief as the grass or the flowers that flourish for a short time ¹⁶ and then shrivel up and die when the hot dry winds come. It isn't long before the plants are not only gone, but you cannot find any trace of them anywhere. The same is true for man. ¹⁷ Even though man's earthly existence is only temporary, the tender love and kindness of the LORD is eternal toward those who fear Him enough to abandon every sinful practice and do good. In addition, He always gives good, fair, and right treatment to the children and grandchildren of the man who has learned the Word of God and faithfully practices doing what it teaches.

¹⁹ The LORD has made His throne so permanent in the heavens that it will last forever, and the authority He possesses gives Him the right to rule and reign over everything that exists, whether spiritual or material. ²⁰ In light of His sovereignty, the **angels**, as strong and powerful as they are, obey His every wish and willingly praise and adore Him all the time; ²¹ the **army** that forms the LORD's heavenly hosts (those who minister to Him and do His every desire) praise the LORD too; ²² and all of His **wonderful works** from every sector of His dominion praise His name. Since all of these praise the LORD, everything within me cannot help but join with them in praising the wonderful name of the LORD, Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Praise the LORD!

¹ For the sake of application, since Christ said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me," the name "Jesus Christ, the Messiah" has been used.

² Dictionary definition for "compassion" www.dictionary.com/browse/compassion