

Psalm 116

¹ I love the LORD. I love Him because He hears me when I pour out my specific requests before Him in prayer. ² I will call upon Him as long as I live, because He really does listen to me with great interest.

³ Let me give you an example of the way He hears me. I was experiencing such extreme sorrow and distress that I was afraid I was going to die. ⁴ It was then that I called out to the LORD in prayer and said,

“LORD, I beg You, please save my life.”

⁵ Well, the LORD has a heartfelt desire to give to those in need¹, and He has a deep sympathy for those experiencing misfortune accompanied by a strong desire to alleviate the suffering². ⁶ Because of His concern, the LORD preserves the simple. I was the simple one, stuck in the pit of despair, but He saved me.

⁷ I am finally at rest again because the LORD has treated me very, very well. ⁸ In fact, He treated me so well that He saved me from death, wiped away all of my tears, and put me on a smooth path where I will not stumble or fall. ⁹ As a testimony to His amazing grace, I will live in a good and godly manner among the living.

¹⁰ Before the LORD rescued me I was convinced of the seriousness of my plight when I said,

“I am being terribly mistreated and hurt. ¹¹ All men are liars, so I cannot depend on anyone to come to my aid.”

¹² LORD, now that You have rescued me, what can I do for You since You have treated me so well? ¹³ I know what I'll do. I will tell everyone about the way You saved me, and I will call upon Your name throughout the day and night. ¹⁴ I will do all of the things I have vowed to You, and I will do them in the sight of Your children. ¹⁵ Think about it, even if the LORD had allowed me to succumb to my troubles, He declares that the death of His godly children is precious in His sight because then they will be in His presence to fellowship together for all eternity.

¹⁶ Oh LORD, I am the son of Your daughter, and now that You have rescued me from my troubles I am at Your service to do Your will. ¹⁷ I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving to You, and I will praise Your name often in prayer. ¹⁸⁻¹⁹ I am determined to keep my vow to You, and I will do it in Jerusalem, in Your temple (the church today), and in the presence of Your people for all to see. Praise the LORD!

¹ Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament, Copyright © 1980 by The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, vol. 1, pg. 302, the meaning of “Gracious”

² Definition of “Compassionate”, www.dictionary.com/browse/compassion