

Psalm 143 A Psalm of David

¹ Dear LORD, please hear my plea for mercy, and give it Your full attention. Then answer me in keeping with Your faithfulness and Your righteousness. ² Please don't make me stand before You to be judged, because everyone falls short of Your goodness and righteousness. ³ I ask for Your help because I have been forced to live in caves and dens where the dead are buried. My enemy has put so much pressure on me for so long that I have all but given up on life. ⁴ As a result, I am overwhelmed by my troubles, and my heart is empty and defeated. ⁵ I remember the old days when I was healthy and could worship You without fear of being persecuted. Back then I meditated with pleasure upon the works You have done in the past. ⁶ I am lifting up my hands to You in prayer because everything within me longs for You. I want to feel Your presence as much as the man dying of thirst in the desert wants a drink of cool water.

Folks, stop what you are doing and ponder the seriousness of my condition. What would you do if you were in my situation?

⁷ LORD, please answer me without delay because I am failing fast. Please don't hide Your smiling face from me, or soon I will be in a grave somewhere. ⁸ Let me hear Your sweet words of tender love and kindness in the morning, because I trust in You completely. Teach me how to live and move in a way that is pleasing to You, because I offer myself to You to be used as You see fit.

⁹ Please rescue me from my enemies because I have turned to Your holy name for protection. ¹⁰ Teach me to do what You want me to do because You are my God, and I want to please You. Please direct Your Holy Spirit to lead me down the path of life that is smooth and free from the hurts and heartaches generated by evil men. ¹¹ Please, please preserve my life as a testimony to Your great and holy name. In keeping with Your righteousness, please lift me out of all of my troubles. ¹² Then show Your tender love and kindness to me by wiping out my enemies and destroying every one of those who afflicted me so severely. I am Your humble servant, so I trust that You will do this for me.