

Home Group Notes
Psalm 116
Thanksgiving and Commitment

****Context**

Psalm 116 is a prayer of commitment and thanks for deliverance.

Deliverance from death, great trouble or a serious illness. Perhaps even in a condition in which one may well have been near 'death' spiritually. So this Psalm feels very personal (with I, me, my) but was also probably used at a festival like Passover proclaiming God's great deliverance of Israel's firstborn in Egypt. Singing a Psalm was a custom in homes and Jesus and His disciples may well have sung this Psalm at the Last Supper.

1. Can you think of other "modern" hymns which have a similar theme to this Psalm of deliverance? What do we often do when in trouble? What should we do?
2. Do you have a story of The Lord's help in the midst of sickness or great trouble?
3. When you first committed your life to Jesus did you realise that He had delivered you from "death"?

****Text and Application**

Read Psalm 116:1-9

4. Why does the Psalmist love the Lord in vs 1-2? What is his response to answered prayer? Is this how we respond to the Lord when He answers our prayers? *Sometimes we don't even acknowledge He has answered and just say, "That was lucky" or "what a coincidence!"*
5. What is your prayer life like? How do you order your prayer life? *Reliance on God and His answers to prayer elicit a commitment to Him and even more reliance next time trouble strikes. 'He helped before therefore He will again!' It's a relationship of love with the Lord. see 1 John 4:19.*
6. Read vs 3-4. Are your prayers direct? Earnest and repeated? Are your prayers as simple as the Psalmists?
7. How reliable is the Lord? see **Psalm 9:9-10**. Is this your experience as your trust God in tough times? *The name of the Lord is a solemn guarantee, by covenant, that He will fulfil all His promises. Cf "in Jesus' Name".*

8. Vs 5-9. What is the character of our God? *What a great reason for thanksgiving!* And what should our response be in knowing God's character and that He does answer prayer? Why is it so hard to be at 'rest' in trouble, anxiety and difficulty? How could we encourage each other?

Read Psalm 116:10-19

9. Vs 10-11. Faith is living and real in the face of the storm. Is that what a real believer is? vs 10, "I kept my faith even...." How could we respond to someone who says that our faith is just a crutch in hard times? Where will faith in ourselves or human solutions lead?
10. What should be our response to God's goodness to us? Vs 12-14. *Taking the "cup of salvation" is to take hold of those blessings God wants us to have and make them our own. To commit to the Lord privately vs 13 and publicly vs 14.* Can we pledge to call on the the name of the Lord (to pray in faith), when next in trouble, rather than continually replay our difficulties?
11. Are we aware that our life is precious in the sight of God? vs 15. Or when difficulties come are we tempted to say, "What have I done to deserve this?"
12. How can we serve God practically in the light of His faithfulness to us?
13. When we emerge from difficulties do we love the Lord even more? Do we have a more disciplined walk with Jesus? vs 17-19. What practical steps can we take to make this happen?

Prayer Points

1. *Pray for a more disciplined walk with the Lord*
2. *Pray that many would serve the Lord and offer service in our Church.*
3. *Pray for those who are facing great trials and difficulties.*
4. *Pray that many would have hearts which are open to the message of God's love in the Easter message.*