# PSALMS
THE LANGUAGE of PRAYER

## PRAYER, NOT A RAIN DANCE

*We do not know what to pray for as we ought*—Romans 8:26

In the drama of grace, prayer is not so much something we do to rouse God to action or to release the blessings that He is sitting on until we perform our religious rituals. In the drama of grace, we are *already* recipients of more blessing than we could ever conceive on our own. We have been gifted divine forgiveness and resurrection-life. We are made participants of new creation both now and into eternity. We are accompanied through every joy and struggle, every moment of doubt and uncertainty, by the Spirit of the risen Christ…who loves us perfectly. And we live out our days under the promise that God is working every situation and experience ("all things" - Romans 8:28) according to His *good* purposes.

Prayer then, is not so much about waking a sleeping God to our needs and enlisting Him for our cause. It is about bringing ourselves more into conformity with those good purposes *of His* - His action in, around, and through us. The problem is, left to ourselves, we often only know how to pray our immediate needs or the confused impulses of our fickle hearts or the glaring problem that we think we need God to fix….according to our prescription! We're like infants who sense a need for one thing (food) and have only one language for acquiring it. This is why the Psalms are so essential. They train us in the language of conforming to God's purposes through every situation, every need, every absorbing emotion of life. They lead us in baptizing our impulses and feelings into the grander story of grace, glory, and mission. In the Psalms, God's perfect words, become our cries, our pleas, and our guide into the life of the Spirit. Pray them out!

## THIS WEEK'S PSALMS

Monday, Sept 23_____*Morning*—Psalm 44| *Evening*—Psalm 47

Tuesday, Sept 24_____*Morning*—Psalm 48| *Evening*—Psalm 50

Wednesday, Sept 25_____*Morning*—Psalm 119:57-80| *Evening*—Psalm 59

Thursday , Sept 26_____*Morning*—Psalm 67 | *Evening*—Psalm 61

Friday, Sept 27_____*Morning*—Psalm 38 | *Evening*—Psalm 51

Saturday, Sept 28_____*Morning*—Psalm 68 | *Evening*—Psalm 65

Sunday, Sept 29_____*Morning*—Psalm 104:1-26 | *Evening*—Psalm 147

## QUESTIONS to CONSIDER about EACH PSALM

1) What is this Psalm about?
2) What is felt?
3) What is requested?
4) What is declared?

## PHRASES about GOD or PETITIONS to GOD WORTH REMEMBERING or MEMORIZING

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