PSALMS
THE LANGUAGE of PRAYER

QUESTIONING GOD

I wonder how many of us have dared pray something akin to Psalm 89. Initially, the Psalmist seems to commend the glory and faithfulness of God. "O Lord God of hosts, who is mighty as you are, O Lord, with your faithfulness all around you?" He recounts God's promises to David and His sons: "My steadfast love I will keep for him forever, and my covenant will stand firm for him." But as the Psalm goes on, we get the sense that all that praise of His character and promises, was just so he could call God out, or worse, question God's character! "But…You have renounced the covenant with your servant; you have defiled his crown in the dust…You have exalted the right hand of his foes; you have made all his enemies rejoice…You have made his splendor to cease and cast his throne to the ground."

The Psalmist concludes with some bold questions for God: "How long, O Lord, will you hide? Where is your steadfast love of old, which by your faithfulness, you swore? Can you see the fist shaking at the heavens?

So consider this: not only are the zaps of lightning stayed and the chasms of the earth that might otherwise swallow this guy kept shut, but this all gets put in the Scriptures. This becomes God's Word to us (as it is the anguished cries of the Psalmist). And even more, it is put into Israel's prayer book. It's now part of their regular rotation of worship songs. In other words, this not only becomes God's Word to us, it becomes our prescribed word back to God. By divine intention, it is to be part of the rhythm of our prayer life. Sometimes, when we consider the character and promises of God in light of personal situations and struggles, all we have are questions and doubts. God says pray it out…boldly. Think about that.

THIS WEEK'S PSALMS

Monday, Oct 7_____*Morning*—Psalm 103| *Evening*—Psalm 89:19-52

Tuesday, Oct 8_____*Morning*—Psalm 87| *Evening*—Psalm 85

Wednesday, Oct 9_____*Morning*—Psalm 38| *Evening*—Psalm 51

Thursday , Oct 10_____*Morning*—Psalm 19| *Evening*—Psalm 93

Friday, Oct 11_____*Morning*—Psalm 3 | *Evening*—Psalm 31

Saturday, Oct 12_____*Morning*—Psalm 143| *Evening*—Psalm 21

Sunday, Oct 13_____*Morning*—Psalm 43 | *Evening*—Psalm 119:73-88

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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