

# FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE

Devotion | Week 1 Day 3

## This is the Day

Suggested Reading: Psalm 118

Psalm 118 is described in the Concordia Self Study Bible as "A hymn of thanksgiving for deliverance from enemies." It is an amazing section of scripture and a good reminder of God's strength for when days grow difficult and we find ourselves anticipating the need for an extra measure of patience.

Today is one of those days. Tomorrow might be too. Day after that isn't looking much better either.

But this should not be a surprise to us. As our lives goes through periods of change, we will face our fair share of challenges. In fact, if you take a closer look at the word you may notice that surrounding any **challenge** you will always find change.

What a joy it is to know that our strength is renewed daily in the Lord by the word of God, through prayer, and by the Holy Spirit. There is nothing we need fear when we walk in the paths of the Lord - a fact confirmed by the psalmist in verse six. "The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" With God at the forefront of our lives, leading and directing us, we have no reason to worry, just as Caleb knew the Israelites had nothing to fear when gave Moses his report about the promised land. Nothing can take us off course unless we allow them to do so. The choice is ours to make.

Now some people may not choose God. Many of the people we encounter look to other sources for their strength, or they will rely upon themselves to find answers to their questions. This may work when it comes to finding a reputable plumber or which local restaurant serves the freshest seafood. Those are worldly questions rooted in opinion. Spiritual questions and concerns that permeate our hearts require something greater. They require spiritual solutions.

What are the earthly solutions for dealing with slander? Revenge, regret, retreat? Look to Nehemiah 6:8 to see the spiritual solution - address it directly and continue on down the path that God has called us to travel. What earthly solutions can there be for grief? Cope, persevere, find a happy place? Look to Psalm 23:4-6 to see the spiritual solution - turn to God and receive the comfort that only comes from Him. Psalm 118:8-9 confirm this, "It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man. It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in princes." It's not that we shouldn't trust one another, however, we must trust in the Lord.

Change is difficult, but with God leading us as we walk through a season of change we know that we will end up exactly where He has directed us to be. Consider the words of Proverbs 3:5-6 which instruct us to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Always rely upon the One who will always be with us, never forsake us, and will lead us to our heavenly home.