

BUILDING A LOVING RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love, for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble. Psalm 59:16 (NIV)

I've always loved the Psalms. They've always been a sense of comfort to me. I remember reading them to both my mom and dad in their last days on earth. I never knew exactly which ones to pick although, like many people, I have my favorites. They consistently show that God's love is constant and unwavering and apply so well today in a world where there is so much conflict and hate. Chapter 59 in Psalms is a description of David's turmoil about his enemies and their plan to harm him. Yet David knew of God's strength and love and used his words to praise him in song, knowing that God was the best and only refuge he needed to overcome his enemies. He was able to turn a negative situation into a reminder that God had never abandoned him.

Last July, I completed a Bible app plan to read the entire book of Psalms along with Proverbs in a month's time. I decided to do the plan with encouragement from a friend who wanted to form a group to read each day and then comment about how the readings affected us, or what stood out or how we could apply that day's reading into our own life. What a joy it was to hear other people's perspectives each day. Their words were a blessing to me as they were encouraging about the love and strength of our God.

God wants us to have and experience a direct relationship with him. When we have that relationship, it seems easier to "sing" of His strength even when we are in a very difficult season of our lives. God is never far from us even when we may forget His presence.

How might your day start differently, if, before you set a foot on the floor, you would say a quick prayer of thanksgiving to a God whose love and faithfulness will never let you down.

Prayer: Gracious Heavenly Father, Thank you for being our refuge, our source of strength and unwavering faithfulness at all times, but especially in times of trouble. May we be bold to say it on a daily basis. Amen

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