

“But may all who search for you be filled with joy and gladness in you. May those who love your salvation repeatedly shout, “God is great!” Psalms 70:4 NLT

lectio // Psalm 70

Wouldn't it be great if God's ability to rescue, give freedom, fill with joy and gladness was not dependent on us saying or doing the right thing? Wouldn't it be great if that was totally a God thing, that he is doing all the work and all the wooing? That was David's prayer! He was being hunted and cornered. He was feeling crushed by his enemies and circumstances that were out of his control. Then in the middle of this lament, this cry for help, he writes this verse. “May all who search, be filled...” David had come to God many times and poured out his heart and frustrations and you know what? When I was being crushed by life and circumstances, and felt cornered with no foreseeable options (which is THE worst), I ENJOYED reading about David's dilemmas AND even his miseries. I felt that he could relate! Then I would read how he would lift his head, lift his voice and lift his anger, fear and anxiety to God - then, right along with him, I would do the same. I felt like God heard me. I felt that God was near. I felt like God himself would work on my behalf. I'm glad these honest angsty prayers are in the Bible - I need them. I'm also glad that even at his worse, David would turn his mind to God. Lean in, not away from God.

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pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

From very early on in my walk with you, I learned to have these kinds of prayer experiences. I faced so many frustrations, so many questions about life, responsibility, relationships, money and major decisions. All of those areas frightened me, even paralyzed me. But you were ALWAYS there. And you patiently spoke joy and peace into my life. Often those crushing moments were short, and I would see you answer quickly. Those moments defined my relationship with you, and still does today.

contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root