

Studies in Psalms by [John T Polk II](#)  
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

Psalm 143

5/2/13

## Psalm 143

## What If The Spirit Is Not Willing?

This Psalm of David tells us what to expect of life before death! Living for God in a hostile world is not easy but requires trust in God and a strong faith in His Word.

Verses 1-2 give the plea;  
Verses 3-8 detail the spiritual struggle within;  
Verses 9-12 ask for spiritual awakening.

**Verses 1-2:** "Prayer" is speaking to God, "supplication" is to ask of God. "Prayer and supplication" are often connected in Scripture ([1 Kings 8:37-40](#); [Philippians 4:6](#)). Without repentance and forgiveness, no human would be acceptable to God. No one is acceptable to God who:

- Says they are ([Luke 18:9-14](#));
- Thinks they obey ([Matthew 7:21-23](#));
- Confesses no sin ([1 John 1:8-10](#));
- Works wickedness ([Psalm 101:3-4](#));
- Hold to the doctrine of the Nicolaitans ([Revelation 2:15](#)).

**Verses 3-8:** Enemies, in persecuting our souls, may make us feel "crushed," surrounded in darkness, lifeless and overwhelmed. Reading and meditating on the Word of God helps us "remember" God's help in the past. "Meditate" is the focus on God's "Works," "musing" is thinking through His Way, spreading out one's hands is to show God we hold nothing back from our obedience. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled" ([Matthew 5:6](#)). When we feel our spirit fail, an alarming thought is that God would turn away from us, thus Jesus cried out from the cross: "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" ([Matthew 27:46](#)). Jesus was taking our place on the cross ([1 Peter 3:18](#)). If we will remember God's "lovingkindness," then our "trust" in Him who has shown us "the way in which I should walk" will "lift up my soul to You."

**Verses 9-12:** David asks God to "deliver" him from enemies, "teach" him to do God's will, and "lead" all the way into "the land of uprightness." God's "Spirit is good," so Christians should "Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh" ([Galatians 5:16](#)).



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A soul delivered from trouble is a soul “revived.” God is merciful to His Servants – anyone may become a “servant of God.” Daniel was spared in a den of lions because he was a “servant of the living God” ([Daniel 6:20](#)).

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