

## **LORD, GIVE ME YOUR HELPING HAND**

### **PSALM 119: 169-176**

Introduction:

An awareness of need is a sure sign of maturity. The spiritually immature continue to stumble along with a false sense of self-sufficiency. They think themselves to be completely sufficient for whatever life may bring. But as a person becomes more aware of what life is all about, a deep sense of insufficiency develops within. The young psalmist has come to such a place in his spiritual pilgrimage. He voices that inner sense of need with a “cry” for help in this last stanza. There is an immediate urgency in the supplication that he makes to the Lord.

His knowledge of the word of the Lord has informed his cry. From the word of the Lord he has learned of the “hand” of the Lord. The hand of the Lord is God actively doing what He has promised to do in His word. So the young psalmist prays, “Let your hand become my help.” He is praying that the Lord of the Covenant will lend him a helping hand with life. This is a good prayer for all of us. Without his helping hand we will not make it.

There are several things that prompt this appeal. If you will listen to the young psalmist you will probably want make the same petition.

I. I FACE ENEMIES I CANNOT DEFEAT.

We are left in the dark about the true historical situation of the young psalmist. However we do learn enough from the Great Psalm to appreciate the struggles that he faced. He was painfully aware of enemies that threatened his life. While he does not name them in this stanza, he does pray to be delivered from them. “Deliver me according to your word.” His enemy may have been a hostile government and vocal critics of the godly way of life that he had chosen. Your enemy may have a different identity, but it is something that threatens your well-being and makes life difficult for you. You need a helping hand in overcoming them.

1. A hostile culture.
2. Life circumstances.

## II. I HAVE MADE PROMISES I CANNOT KEEP.

When the word of the Lord comes to us, it prompts us to make promises. The young psalmist had made such promises. But the maturing soon learn that they are not able to keep the promises that they make, If they are to keep the promises, they must have a helping hand, even the help of God Himself.

1. The promise to live a life of praise.

“My lips shall utter praise—My tongue shall speak of Your word.” Surely a true knowledge of God will move you to make such a promise, but it easier

said than done. This prompts the young psalmist to petition to the Lord God for a helping hand.

2. The promise to live a life of obedience.

“For I have chosen Your precepts---And Your law is my delight.” Knowing what we know of God makes us promise to obey, to keep His word, to walk in His ways, but it easier said than done. Knowing how challenging it is to truly live according to His word will move you to ask for a helping hand.

III. I HAVE A PROBLEM I CANNOT SOLVE.

He closes this Great Psalm with an admission of spiritual reality. “I have gone astray like a lost sheep.”

1. The problem of a fallen nature.

“I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant.” I have a propensity toward sin, an inclination to wander away from the Lord. I really need a helping hand.

2. The problem of a perfect law.

“For I do not forget your commandments.”

The commandments of the Lord are always there reminding me of what I should be and revealing to me what I am not. They are constantly reminding me just how far I have wandered. O how I need a helping hand.

Lord, I really do need a helping hand. “Let Your hand become my help.” I am confident that this is a prayer that the Lord of the covenant will answer if we just “call” and bring supplications. As long as we think that our hand can take care of things, He will let us try. But as we mature we become aware that our hand is weak and helpless—we really do need a helping hand.

Let us pray!