

My Loved Ones:

Psalm 40:17 says, “ But I am poor and needy; / Yet the LORD thinks upon me. / You are my help and my deliverer; / Do not delay, O may God.”

This last verse of the psalm begins with self, and ends with God. Remember that Psalm 40:16 ends with “the LORD be magnified,” just as Paul desired that whether it be his life or death, that God would be magnified. When we magnify God, we see ourselves for what we really are: we are poor and needy. Do you see yourself that way? I find that I’m constantly asking God for help, and then convicted that I don’t thank Him and praise Him more for all the things that He has already done for me. Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit.” That word for poor means that the person is so poor, that if something isn’t dropped in their hand soon, they will be a goner! It’s not just talking about someone who is getting by. Do you realize how desperately you need the Lord for everything in life? Stop and remember that.

But we don’t want to end on ourselves. We need to make sure that we have, as old Larry Haley used to say, “an inward look, an upward look, and an outward look.” We just finished our inward look. Now for our upward look: even though we are needy, He thinks on us. A little boy asked his father, “Dad, what does God think about?” Since God knows everything, what does He have to think about? But this verse tells us. God thinks on us even though we are poor and needy, and even though we don’t do much for Him. He still thinks on us. Praise the Lord!

Now notice a comparison here. Compare what we are with Who God is. Who is God? He knows everything (omniscient) about me (and everyone else). He is compassionate, gracious, loving and merciful. He’s not a mean-spirited rioter getting on social media to rail on us. Who else would think on the poor and needy other than God? God thinks about us personally. He doesn’t have to be told about us. He doesn’t delegate to a committee of angels our needs. Who else is God? He is our personal Helper. You need help with providing the good? You’ve got it from the Lord. He is also our deliverer with protecting us from the bad. Since He is all of these things, He should be giving us great stability in our lives. Our lives will be steadied on the Rock, Jesus Christ, when we apply what we know about Him to our circumstances. This is the kind of God that we have.

Even though David has a great Provider and Protector in the LORD, he still recognizes that life isn’t all “pie in the sky in the sweet by and by.” The “rubber meets the road in the nasty now and now.” Life isn’t a bowl of cherries; so David still prays, “God, don’t delay to help me.” David stopped to think about God even though He was under the trial. Do you? Since we are on God’s mind, do we take the time to make sure that He is on our mind? Knowing Him well and applying what we know about Him to our circumstances determines many things in our lives, like how our trials go.

Praying for you today, my loved ones.