

My Dear Loved Ones:

God says in Psalm 90:15 - "Make us glad according to the days in which You have afflicted us, / The years in which we have seen evil."

Here is a great prayer to pray often. Moses prayed this prayer, and God inspired Moses to pray it and write it down; therefore, since God is behind it, it must be a great prayer to pray.

Pray that one day that we as God's individuals, families and people would have so much joy that it makes up for the days of sorrow and distress. We do have days of discouragement; but pray that God would send days of joy to equal the bad. By the way, that means we need to be looking for those good things every day that God is sending to us. Are you seeing the good things?

We have things so much better than many people who have died for Jesus Christ over the centuries. Our family just read this morning of a woman in a Romanian prison who was there for being a Christian, and she was beaten and yelled at repeatedly. There are stories in which Christians are tortured, their spouses tortured and killed in front of their eyes, and their children done the same. There are stories of those who have been burnt, pierced with swords, beaten with whips, imprisoned with chains, had stones thrown upon them, killed by the sword, were lacking necessary food, clothing and shelter... And these are just some that are mentioned in Hebrews 11:35b-40. But these people saw God do amazing things: maybe not in changing their circumstances, but in changing people. May the Lord help us to be praying that God gives us joy that makes up for the days of sorrow.

God tells us in Romans 8:18-39 about the back and forth nature of joys balanced with difficulties, and how we are to be thinking in days of sorrow. I especially like Romans 8:18 - The sufferings of this present time aren't worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. God is doing a joyful work right now inside us, if we will let Him. And even the bad of the now is nothing in comparison to the tremendous joy of eternity; we can't even imagine it.

We also like 2 Cor 4:16-18. So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Think about those verses, loved ones! Even though difficulties affect our bodies, we can still have joy daily as we renew our minds in Jesus. Our affliction is light in comparison to the weight of glory waiting for us. So, don't look at the things around us right now; look at the things that are eternal.

Praying for you today, my loved ones.