

## Revive Me

*“Revive me, O Lord, for Your name’s sake! For Your righteousness sake bring my soul out of trouble. In Your mercy cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul. Psalm 143.11-12*

David is not asking for resurrection from the dead, as a dead body. He is asking for a resurrection of his soul. His condition would be diagnosed in today’s wisdom as being afflicted with the disease of depression, and in need of psychiatric therapy to get his emotions and thinking corrected. But he is not handicapped by such modern foolishness. His only recourse is to cry out to God for help.

The sort of state the psalmist is experiencing is not a disease. It is not even rare. Happily, it is not something that happens every day, or every week, or even every month. But sooner or later, things will pile up to the state that we feel like we are losing our hold on everything. Sinking fast, and no help in sight. Discouragement and defeat loom like mountains surrounding us and closing in. This is especially debilitating when we are hounded by people. Persons from whom we thought we might receive help, turn on us and add to our miseries. It happens to every one. Happy is the person who has the Living God to call upon in such a time.

The request is singular. Quicken me! I am a dead man. Raise me up, and make me to live again. Two words. That is all. We do not have to try to prescribe how God should do that. We well know He *can*, because He has done so before. We may have forgotten about it, but no one lives in the realm of God’s grace very long before he is tried with such times that will evoke that cry; help Lord, I perish! It is good to have the right kind of argument to present with your petition. He employs three:

“For your righteousness sake”. We have no righteousness that will give us any leverage with God. Our righteousness is Another’s imputed to our account. God’s righteousness comes to us both imputed and imparted by the Person of His Son Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us. As our righteousness, He is our Advocate in the court of heaven. We shall be heard for His sake.

“In Your mercy”. David is asking God to destroy people in His mercy??? “In your wrath, in your justice, in your vengeance” perhaps, but mercy? Yes, because God’s mercy is carefully qualified. He is a sovereign God who has mercy upon He will have mercy. He will be gracious to whom He will be gracious. If God is to show mercy to me, he will surely destroy the destroyer of my soul!

“For I am your servant.” Ah! Here is the qualifying test. Am I God’s servant? Am I his willing, joyful, obedient slave? Have I put every other demand on my life, my energies, my resources under servitude to Him. Then He will not fail. We are identified with HIM. His Name is upon us, and He will not allow His Life to be diminished in our souls. God will revive us. That will be more than enough.

-C. M.

