

Empowered: Connect to Praise
Psalm 103:1-14
May 15, 2022
Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lovelady

Psalm 103:1-14: Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. ² Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all his benefits-- ³ who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, ⁴ who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. ⁶ The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. ⁷ He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel: ⁸ The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love ⁹ He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; ¹⁰ he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. ¹¹ For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; ¹² as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. ¹³ As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; ¹⁴ for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust. (NIV)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church and Community

1. _____ our fragile existence

_____ our limitations: He knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust. Human life is like grass; we grow like a flower in the field. After the wind blows, the flower is gone, and there is no sign of where it was. Psalm 103:14-16 (NCV)

2. _____ for the power of praise

_____ : Praise the Lord, my soul, do not forget what God has done for you: he gives mercy rather than malice, healing rather than hatred, and redemption rather than rejection! He restores your life by crowning you with mercy and compassion. He renews your spirit with satisfying goodness! Psalm 103:2-5 (JOT)

_____ the relationship: God has revealed his character. God has made known his desires to care for his people. The Lord is patiently compassionate and full of mercy! Anger will not be the end, because God does not treat us as our sins deserve....

Psalm 103:7-10 (JOT)

_____ to God's love: As high as heaven is over the earth, so strong is his love to those who fear him. And as far as sunrise is from sunset, he has separated us from our sins. As parents feel for their children, GOD feels for those who fear him.

Psalm 103:11-13 (MSG)

3. _____ the impact of praise

_____ renewal: I urge you, brothers and sisters, to present your ordinary lives to God as living sacrifices because of God's great compassion and love! This is the most thoughtful response to God. No longer conform to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind through praising and pleasing God! Romans 12:1-2 (JOT)

Spiritual Action Step:

God shares his mercy and love long before you can even recognize his power. God, in Jesus Christ, comes to share with you forever and to empower your life. The first step is to believe that God wants you as his child. Scripture says: *Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.* (Hebrews 11:6 (NIV)) Ask for Jesus to come into your heart and life. Then, offer your life as an act of worship to him. This is the only way you will find renewal, hope, and strength for living! This week read, Psalm 103 and Romans 12 to continue to grow in the grace, knowledge, and power of our Lord and Savior.

Translations: NIV: New International Version; NCV: New Century Translation; JOT: Jon's Own Translation; MSG: The Message.