

Bible Text New International Version	What does the psalm reveal about God and how we are to approach, address, and respond to God?
<p>Psalm 116</p> <p>¹ I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy.</p> <p>² Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live.</p> <p>³ The cords of death entangled me, the anguish of the grave came over me; I was overcome by distress and sorrow.</p> <p>⁴ Then I called on the name of the LORD: “LORD, save me!”</p> <p>⁵ The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion.</p> <p>⁶ The LORD protects the unwary; when I was brought low, he saved me.</p> <p>⁷ Return to your rest, my soul, for the LORD has been good to you.</p> <p>⁸ For you, LORD, have delivered me from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling,</p> <p>⁹ that I may walk before the LORD in the land of the living.</p> <p>¹⁰ I trusted in the LORD when I said, “I am greatly afflicted”;</p> <p>¹¹ in my alarm I said, “Everyone is a liar.”</p> <p>¹² What shall I return to the LORD for all his goodness to me?</p> <p>¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.</p> <p>¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. <i>(continued)</i></p>	

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<p>Psalm 116 (<i>continued</i>)</p> <p>15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful servants.</p> <p>16 Truly I am your servant, LORD; I serve you just as my mother did; you have freed me from my chains.</p> <p>17 I will sacrifice a thank offering to you and call on the name of the LORD.</p> <p>18 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people,</p> <p>19 in the courts of the house of the LORD— in your midst, Jerusalem. Praise the LORD.^[a]</p> <p>Psalm 118</p> <p>1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.</p> <p>2 Let Israel say: “His love endures forever.”</p> <p>3 Let the house of Aaron say: “His love endures forever.”</p> <p>4 Let those who fear the LORD say: “His love endures forever.”</p> <p>5 When hard pressed, I cried to the LORD; he brought me into a spacious place.</p> <p>6 The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?</p> <p>7 The LORD is with me; he is my helper. I look in triumph on my enemies. (<i>continued</i>)</p> <p>a. Hebrew <i>Hallelu Yah</i>.</p>	

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<p>Psalm 118 (continued)</p> <p>⁸ It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in humans.</p> <p>⁹ It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in princes.</p> <p>¹⁰ All the nations surrounded me, but in the name of the LORD I cut them down.</p> <p>¹¹ They surrounded me on every side, but in the name of the LORD I cut them down.</p> <p>¹² They swarmed around me like bees, but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns; in the name of the LORD I cut them down.</p> <p>¹³ I was pushed back and about to fall, but the LORD helped me.</p> <p>¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my defense^[b]; he has become my salvation.</p> <p>¹⁵ Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: "The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!"</p> <p>¹⁶ The LORD's right hand is lifted high; the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!"</p> <p>¹⁷ I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.</p> <p>¹⁸ The LORD has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death.</p> <p>¹⁹ Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.</p> <p>²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter.</p> <p>²¹ I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation. <i>(continued)</i></p> <p>b. Or <i>song</i></p>	

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<p>Psalm 118 (continued)</p> <p>²² The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;</p> <p>²³ the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.</p> <p>²⁴ The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.</p> <p>²⁵ LORD, save us! LORD, grant us success!</p> <p>²⁶ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you.^[c]</p> <p>²⁷ The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine on us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up^[d] to the horns of the altar.</p> <p>²⁸ You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you.</p> <p>²⁹ Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.</p> <p>c. The Hebrew is plural. d. Or <i>Bind the festal sacrifice with ropes / and take it.</i></p>	

Reflections

When you have finally come to the end of yourself and cried out to God, what was His response? Was it what you expected? What can you share with others because of this experience?

The sacrifice of thanksgiving or praise requires surrender. Talk about a time you thanked God in the midst of something difficult. What did you have to sacrifice?

