

A Series of devotions on Psalm 33

PRAY FOR GOD'S STEADFAST LOVE

Psalm 33:22 "Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you."

The Psalmist in chapter 33 has focused our attention on the truth and power of God's word, the fact that the world in which we live is the result of God's creating work and the whole world including the leaders and military in this world are totally dependent upon God. The Psalmist concludes in verse 22 with a prayer. The New Living Translation translates the prayer in these words, "Let your unfailing love surround us, LORD, for our hope is in you alone."

This prayer emphasizes our need for God's presence and blessing. Can you imagine your life devoid of God's love? What would your life be like if God did not embrace you with His "unfailing love?" Who but God is unfailing in His love?

In this country we elect leaders at local, state and national levels who we trust will carry out their duties to create and enforce governance that will provide us with personal and corporate safety, an economy that will support the needs of us citizens, and decency and order. We are witnesses to the fact that, though well-intentioned, due to the sinful inclinations of humanity, government is not always able to provide what is best for us.

When the Psalmist prays for God's continued steadfast love upon which his future hope is founded, he has in mind the previous three verses of the Psalm. There he describes how God does what governments and individuals cannot do: "He delivers souls from death. . .He keeps people alive during famines. . .He is our help and shield. . .we can trust in Him..." So, our souls can wait with confidence for the Lord to love, rescue, provide, forgive and save us.

A well-known commentator, Matthew Henry, says verse 22 is a "comprehensive prayer" for God's steadfast love and faithfulness. He expands on the verse with the following, "*Let thy mercy, O Lord! be upon us; let us always have the comfort and benefit of it, not according as we merit from thee, but according as we hope in thee, that is, according to the promise which thou hast in thy word given to us and according to the faith which thou hast by thy Spirit and grace wrought in us.*"

Prayer: "Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you."
(Psalm 33:22) Amen.

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in Thee inherit; Let us find Thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, an its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation Perfectly restored in Thee,
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!
(LSB 700)