



第42周 靈修默想

每日靈思：請信徒齊來歡然取水，
請先翻開聖經，恭讀相關詩篇，禱告，默想經文，然後再回答問題。

11月1日（星期一）經文：詩篇78：9-22

1. 以法蓮子孫上陣之日如何？他們為何失敗？在我的生命中，我會在什麼情況下忘記神的作為？
2. 在第12-16節，神有什麼奇妙的作為？在第17-19節中，以色列人怎樣回應神？結果如何？個人反省：我寶貴神的作為，順從神，或輕看神的作為，繼續犯罪？

11月2日（星期二）經文：詩篇78：23-35

1. 在這幾節經文中，神有哪些大能的作為？以色列人怎樣回應神的作為？結果如何？我為所得的感恩，或貪得無厭？
2. 從第32節中，我們看見以色列人仍舊如何？他們的日子如何？第34節，他們在何時回轉？他們有什麼悔改的行動？我的生活空虛會不會是因為不肯順服神？痛苦受罰之時，我才回頭歸向神嗎？

11月3日（星期三）經文：詩篇78：36-53

1. 第36節，以色列人有什麼錯誤？他們為何如此呢（第37節）？第38節，神怎樣對待他們？對於那些陷在錯誤、罪惡裡的人，我的態度是什麼？
2. 第40節，他們在曠野如何？第42節，他們為何如此？第43-53節，神有哪些大能和恩惠？我記念神救我的恩典嗎？我不肯離開罪惡，叫聖靈擔憂嗎？

11月4日（星期四）經文：詩篇78：54-72

1. 神怎樣恩待以色列人？他們行為如何？第59節告訴我們的結果是什麼？在我的生命中，是否因為忘恩得罪神而遭痛苦羞辱？
2. 在第65-71節，神怎樣施恩？第72節，大衛怎樣牧養百姓？對神，我的心純正嗎？

11月5日（星期五）經文：詩篇79：1-8（南國淪亡之哀歌 背景：王下廿五章）

1. 詩人怎樣向神傾訴他受到的痛苦和羞辱？我向神盡情傾述痛苦、羞辱，或獨自飲泣，讓悲哀、痛苦、仇恨報復佔據我的心？
2. 詩人在第5節提出什麼疑問？詩人在第6-8節有什麼哀求和願望？失敗悲痛中，我哀求神或是埋怨神？

11月6日（星期六）經文：經文：詩篇79：9-13（南國淪亡之哀歌 背景：王下廿五章）

1. 第9-10節怎樣稱呼神？詩人為什麼求神拯救？神如何拯救？在我的經歷中，神是我在苦難中的希望嗎？
2. 第11節，詩人怎樣描述自己和同胞？第12節，詩人祈求什麼？第13節，詩人怎樣許願？在面對疑惑時，我依然相信並讚美神嗎？



Week 42 GOD'S MINISTRY OF DARKNESS

2 Corinthians 4:11

For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh

What is the point of troubled times in our lives? What is God trying to do? What is He trying to teach us? Peter wrote, *"Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation"* (1 Peter 4:12, 13).

In God's ministry of testing, we learn a lot about ourselves. Whatever is left of simplistic advice such as "Read your Bible" or "Just work harder" or "Pray more" gets stripped away. Most people going through testing times would love to resolve the crisis, but they seemingly can't and don't know why.

In God's ministry of darkness we learn compassion. We learn to wait patiently with people. We learn to respond to the emotional needs of people who have lost hope. We weep with those who weep. We don't try to teach or instruct or advise. If God took away every external blessing and reduced our assets to nothing more than meaningful relationships, would that be enough to sustain us? Yes, I believe it would.

Perhaps God brings us to the end of our resources so we can discover the vastness of His. We don't hear many sermons about brokenness in our churches these days, yet in all four Gospels Jesus taught us to deny ourselves, pick up our cross daily, and follow Him. I don't know any painless way to die to ourselves, but I do know that it's necessary and that it's the best possible thing that could ever happen to us.

"No pain, no gain," says the body builder. Isn't that true in the spiritual realm as well (Hebrews 12:11)? Proven character comes from persevering through the tribulations of life (Romans 5:3-5). Every great period of personal growth in my life and ministry has been preceded by a major time of testing.



Prayer: Lord, I submit to Your testing so I may come to the end of my resources and joyfully discover Yours.

Visit Neil Anderson's Daily In Christ at:
<http://www.crosswalk.com/devotionals/dailyinchrist/544862/>



Stillness of the Night

In the stillness of the night
As I lay in bed and try to sleep
I remember how I blew the fight
And all Your commands
I didn't keep

I tried, O God, I tried
To strengthen my soul
against the dark
I felt so confident that
I would abide...
But when temptation came,
I had missed Your mark

But then as I slept that night
You came to me in a dream
You said to me, "Try as you
may, try as you might,
You will fail,
despite what it may seem,

It is not your job
to see you through,
It is not your job to feel strong
I just want one thing
for you to do:
Give Me what you tried
to do all along"

So that morning as I awoke
And I knew my sleep
was worth its while
For as I remembered the words
that You spoke
I gave to You my temptations
and my trials

I finally admitted I was too weak
To face the day
without making a mistake
So to You I lay my life so meek
And I asked You that me
You would not forsake

Day by day you guide me on
And my strength
I get from You alone
All my battles have been won
For in Your strength
I have been sewn

by Geoff Lemke