

August 2016



Dear friends,

This month I have been meditating on the wonderful character and deeds of God. In Psalm 9 we see King David speak about God as our righteous judge. In the psalm, David praises the Lord for revealing His righteousness in judging the wicked nations. Then as he prays for new opportunities to remember God's mercies, David is confident of God's continued judgment on the wicked and of freedom for those who are oppressed and suffering.

David begs God to come quickly and show his holy power and rule over the wicked nations. He then moves on to pray that God would remember David's suffering and pain and give him even more reasons for praising the Lord.

¹ I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all my heart;
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. ²I will be glad and rejoice in you;
I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High.

³ My enemies turn back; they stumble and perish before you. ⁴For you have upheld my right and my cause, sitting enthroned as the righteous judge. ⁵ You have rebuked the nations and destroyed the wicked; you have blotted out their name for ever and ever.

¹³LORD, see how my enemies persecute me! Have mercy and lift me up from the gates of death,
¹⁴ that I may declare your praises in the gates of Daughter Zion, and there rejoice in your salvation. Psalm 9:1-5, 13-14

Yet even in the midst of a wicked nation and wicked people, David reminds us that:

- 1) God is a stronghold (place of protection) for the oppressed.**
- 2) He does not forsake those who seek him.**
- 3) He does not forget the cry of the afflicted.**

⁹The LORD is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. ¹⁰ Those who know your name trust in you, for you, LORD, have never forsaken those who seek you. ¹¹ Sing the praises of the LORD, enthroned in Zion; proclaim among the nations what he has done.
¹² For he who avenges blood remembers; he does not ignore the cries of the afflicted.

Let us, who know him, put our trust in him and take our prayers to the Lord knowing and believing today that he hears our cries and will not ignore the cries of those in pain. God is our righteous judge and Jesus is our King. Today we can have hope!

God bless you,

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Testimonies from Albania:

For many years we didn't have a church in our village. When we heard about the radio programs, we were so happy. Your radio programs have helped us grow in the Lord. I want to thank you for the *Women of Hope* program. Listening to it, I have gained a lot of information and [learned] how to be closer to God. **Jorgjie**

I am blind from birth, and I listen to all of your programs. *Women of Hope* is one of those programs that I really like. I listen to it every Saturday and Sunday. Those programs have helped me to grow strong in the Lord. **Antigoni**

I am a regular listener of your programs. *Women of Hope* is a great encouragement for me. I have decided to follow Jesus, and I want to know how to serve others better. I have had a difficult life and suffered from violence at home. But in every problem I have seen Christ in my life. I have understood that through the difficulties, God creates in us a new person. The Holy Spirit reminds me of the verse: "Take courage, I overcome the world." **Jeta**

I thank God for the *Women of Hope* program. I have learned new things like how to take care of myself and my children. One day I heard you talking about children sick with colds. The information I got there was very important. I didn't know the ways a virus goes from one child to another child. I took notes of the ways and was very careful when one of my children had a cold virus. I also didn't know that children should drink a lot of fluids when they are sick. Thank you for everything. **Lumturi**

I have had two miscarriages, and it was very difficult for me to believe that God would give me a child. A friend of mine invited me to go to church. I continued to go to church and to pray to God. He did a great miracle in my life. He has blessed me with two children, and I am expecting the third one. I thank God for your *Women of Hope* program. It is a great program that not only teaches us useful tips, but also calms our souls. May the Lord bless you! **Silvana**

I grew up in an atheist family. I was married when I was 17 years old. We decided to go to Greece to earn our daily bread. We have two children. After some time, my husband had an accident, and he died. I came back to Albania, and I heard about a Christian church. I began to go to that church together with my two children. I got to know the God who supported me and gave me great strength to bring up my children. The prayers that I hear in your prayer-calendar radio program and the *Women of Hope* program give me strength. **Alma**

Thank you so much for your radio programs. I hear your prayer program in the morning. You have urged me to pray. I go to the church, and now I know that God is listening to prayers. One day I was praying for my grandmother. She was sick and she got better. The doctors told her that she didn't need to go through the surgery. I was really glad, and I knew that God had answered my prayer. I also have prayed for my dad. He was addicted to alcohol. I thank God that now he doesn't drink anymore. God bless you. **Stelina, 16**

I am a man, but I like your prayer-calendar program a lot. The topics you touch on in this prayer calendar are very helpful. I have learned a lot about the situation of women around the world. Sometimes what I have heard in your program has been unbelievable to me, especially when I hear that parents sell their daughters for a dowry. Thank you for the awareness you give to us. **Sofokli**

I live in the States, but I like your prayer calendar in Albanian a lot. I listen online to your prayer-calendar program, and I am blessed by the prayer requests. I am so happy that you pray for mothers. I am a mother of two children, and I know that it is very hard to take care of children and to teach them the right way, so thank you for your prayers. **Ori, Facebook**