

Good morning, Church. Daily Reading, Acts 14.

Psalm 80:3 "Restore us, O God;
let your face shine, that we may be saved!" (ESV)

This refrain is used three times, in Psalm 80:3, 7, and 19.

Who or what do you trust in to fight your battles? Is it God, yourself, your own abilities? For Asaph, the writer here, he knew Israel's only hope came from God. When their more powerful enemies would rise up against them, they had to place their complete hope and trust in the presence and power of God to protect them. Their complete dependence was upon the power of God to defeat their enemy and not themselves.

Asaph asked God to turn His people back to Him and not just change their circumstances, but to change them.

Then Asaph repeats a part of a prayer he had heard numerous times from Numbers 6:24-26, "The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace." (ESV)

"Our greatest dread is the withdrawal of the Lord's presence, and our brightest hope is the prospect of His return. In the darkest times of Israel, the light of her Shepherd's countenance is all she needs." (Spurgeon)

I think I have shared this song by Phil Wickham, "Battle Belongs" with you before.

"When all I see is the battle, You see my victory
When all I see is the mountain, You see a mountain moved
And as I walk through the shadow, Your love surrounds me
There's nothing to fear now for I am safe with You

So when I fight, I'll fight on my knees
With my hands lifted high
Oh God, the battle belongs to You
And every fear I lay at Your feet
I'll sing through the night
Oh God, the battle belongs to You."

Too often, instead of trusting God in prayer, we fight our battles with hateful and deceptive words or with harmful actions, rather than trusting God to fight our battles and defeat our foes and save us.

God still fights for His people! Trust He will fight for you.