

Reading Through Psalm - My Thoughts and Comments

Psalm 38: 9; 15

New International Version

All my longings lie open before you O Lord; my sighing is not hidden from you.

The Message

Lord, my longings are sitting in plain sight, my groans an old story to you. What I do, God, is wait for you, wait for my Lord, my God—you will answer! I wait and pray so they won't laugh me off, won't smugly strut off when I stumble.

In the order of the Psalms, this chapter was difficult to comment on considering that the intended audience is my ten year old. Much of the chapter deals with pain and sorrow that I did not think would be understood by him; and for that reason, I have selected only two verses from which to comment. Maybe some day, this child and I can discuss more of the chapter and the book...and wouldn't that be great!

God knew each of us before we were born; he knew us when we were hidden in "that dark place" as described in a latter Psalm (chapter 139). Well, with such insight into our lives (even before birth), God is able to know when we sigh (or when we are hurting emotionally or are longing for something). He knows everything about us - even things that we don't know about ourselves!

Even in his knowledge of our longings, God desires that we pray and wait for his answer. God promises to answer our prayers in his timing and for his glory - but we must wait on him! Of course, those longings must be in keeping with those things that please God - or that he delights in.

H. Kirk Rainer