

PASTOR

CHARMAINE CHEONG

Baptism is a public declaration of
our personal decision to follow Jesus.

He will instruct him in the way chosen for him.
He will spend his days in prosperity, and his descendants will inherit the land.
The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them.
My eyes are ever on the LORD, for only he will release my feet from the snare.

Psalm 88

A song. A psalm of the Sons of Korah.
For the director of music. Accompanied by stringed instruments.
Heman the Ezrahite.

LORD, the God who saves me,
day and night I cry out before you.
My prayer come before you;
turn your ear to my cry.

My soul is full of trouble,
and my life draws near the grave.
I am counted among those who go down to the pit;

I am like a man without strength,
set apart with the dead.
I am the slain who lie in the grave,
and you remember no more,
and I am cut off from your care.

You have put me in the lowest pit,
in the darkest depths.

My wrath lies heavily upon me;
you have afflicted me with all your

A prayer of David.
1 Hear, O LORD, my righteous plea;
listen to my cry.
Give ear to my prayer —
it does not rise from deceitful lips.
2 May my vindication come from you;
may your eyes see what is right.
3 Though you probe my heart and examine
me at night,
though you test me, you will find
nothing;
I have resolved that my mouth will not
sin.

BOOK OF PSALMS

DOES
8 Keep me as the apple of your eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings
from the wicked who assail me,
from my mortal enemies who surround
me.

10 They close up their callous hearts,
and their mouths speak with arrogance.
11 They have tracked me down, they now
surround me,
with eyes alert, to throw me to the
ground.

12 They are like a lion hungry for prey,
like a great lion crouching in cover.
13 Rise up, O LORD, confront them, bring
them down.

burning coals blazed out of it.
9 He parted the heavens and came down;
dark clouds were under his feet.
10 He mounted the cherubim and flew;
he soared on the wings of the wind.
11 He made darkness his covering, his
canopy around him —
the dark rain clouds of the sky.
12 Out of the brightness of his presence
clouds advanced,
with hailstones and bolts of lightning.
13 The LORD thundered from heaven;
the voice of the Most High resounded.
14 He shot his arrows and scattered the

defence.
my God is my rock, in whom I take
refuge.
He is my shield and the horn of my
salvation, my stronghold.
3 I call to the LORD, who is worthy of
praise,
and I am saved from my enemies.
4 The cords of death entangled me;
the torrents of destruction overwhelmed
me.
5 The cords of the grave coiled about
me.

and casts no slur on his fellowman.
4 who despises a vile man
but honors those who fear the LORD,
who keeps his oath
even when it hurts,
5 who lends his money without usury
and does not accept a bribe against the
innocent.

He who does these things
will never be shaken.

Psalm 16

A *miktam*^b of David.

me safe, O God,
you I take refuge.
the LORD, "You are my Lord;
from you I have no good thing."
the saints who are in the land,
are the glorious ones in whom is
all my delight.^c

sorrows of those will increase
who run after other gods.
I will not pour out their libations of blood
or take up their names on my lips.

5 LORD, you have assigned me my portion
and my cup;
you have made my lot secure.
6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in
pleasant places;
surely I have a delightful inheritance.

7 I will praise the LORD, who counsels me;
even at night my heart instructs me.
8 I have set the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand,
I will not fall.

PSALM 88

Psalm 88 (NIV)

¹ Lord, you are the God who saves me; day and night I cry out to you. ² May my prayer come before you; turn your ear to my cry. ³ I am overwhelmed with troubles and my life draws near to death. ⁴ I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am like one without strength.

Psalms 88 (NIV)

⁵ I am set apart with the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom you remember no more, who are cut off from your care. ⁶ You have put me in the lowest pit, in the darkest depths. ⁷ Your wrath lies heavily on me; you have overwhelmed me with all your waves.

Psalm 88 (NIV)

⁸ You have taken from me my closest friends and have made me repulsive to them. I am confined and cannot escape; ⁹ my eyes are dim with grief. I call to you, Lord, every day; I spread out my hands to you. ¹⁰ Do you show your wonders to the dead? Do their spirits rise up and praise you?

Psalm 88 (NIV)

¹¹ Is your love declared in the grave, your faithfulness in Destruction? ¹² Are your wonders known in the place of darkness, or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion? ¹³ But I cry to you for help, Lord; in the morning my prayer comes before you. ¹⁴ Why, Lord, do you reject me and hide your face from me?

Psalm 88 (NIV)

¹⁵ From my youth I have suffered and been close to death; I have borne your terrors and am in despair. ¹⁶ Your wrath has swept over me; your terrors have destroyed me. ¹⁷ All day long they surround me like a flood; they have completely engulfed me. ¹⁸ You have taken from me friend and neighbor—darkness is my closest friend.

Hello darkness, my old friend.

HELLO DARKNESS MY OLD FRIEND



HI, HOW HAVE YOU BEEN LATELY

Source: olafthesnowman on imgflip.com

None of us can escape seasons of darkness.

Psalms 88:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ ...darkness is my closest friend.

Psalms 88:1-2 (NIV)

¹ Lord, you are the God who saves me; day and night I cry out to you. ² May my prayer come before you; turn your ear to my cry.

CLOSER THAN THE DARK

BOOK OF PSALMS

Darkness may shape how we feel,
but it can never change who God is.

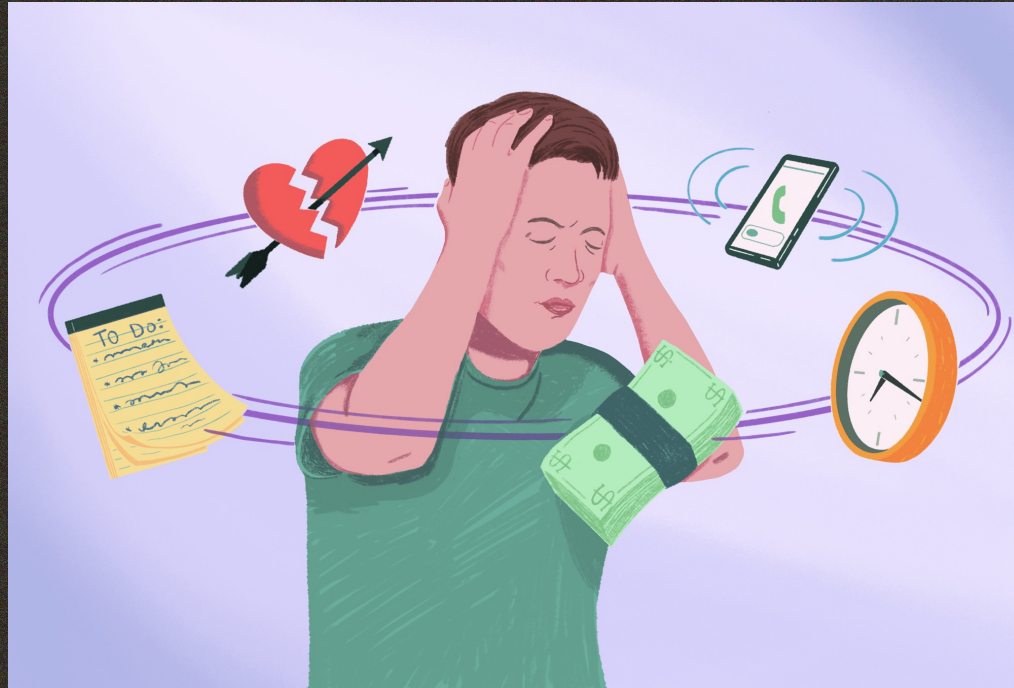
3 truths about God in our darkness:

GOD WELCOMES OUR STRUGGLES

Psalm 88:3-5 (NIV)

³ I am **overwhelmed** with troubles and my life **draws near to death**. ⁴ I am counted among those who go down to the pit; I am like one without strength. ⁵ I am set apart with the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, whom you remember no more, who are cut off from your care.

God, I can't do this anymore.



Source: Verywell/Dennis Madamba on [verywellmind.com](https://www.verywellmind.com)

Psalms 88:5 (NIV)

⁵ I am set apart with the dead, like the slain who lie in the grave, **whom you remember no more, who are cut off from your care.**

1 Kings 19:4 (NIV)

⁴ ...“I have had enough, Lord,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.”

Matthew 26:38 (NIV)

³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death...

Matthew 27:46 (NLT)

⁴⁶ At about three o'clock, Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

Exhausterwhelmulated

[Exhauster-whelm-ulated] Adjective

The feeling of being exhausted, overwhelmed and overstimulated all at once.

Source: [instagram.com/weareillmatic](https://www.instagram.com/weareillmatic)

Jesus has saved us from the
penalty of sin, but we are still living in a
broken world that is affected by sin.



Source: mothership.sg

I am God's downstairs neighbour,
banging on the ceiling with a broomstick.
I show up at His door every day. Sometimes
with songs. Sometimes with curses. Sometimes
apologies, gifts, questions, demands.

JANE KRISTEN MARCZEWSKI

Sometimes I use my key under the mat
to let myself in. Other times I sulk outside
until He opens the door to me Himself.

JANE KRISTEN MARCZEWSKI

Psalms 88:6-8 (NIV)

⁶ You have put me in the lowest pit, in the darkest depths. ⁷ Your wrath lies heavily on me; you have overwhelmed me with all your waves. ⁸ You have taken from me my closest friends and have made me repulsive to them...

Psalms 88:13 (NIV)

¹³ But I cry to you for help, Lord; in the morning my prayer comes before you.

Psalms 142:2 (NIV)

² I pour out before him my complaint;
before him I tell my trouble.

3 truths about God in our darkness:

GOD WELCOMES OUR STRUGGLES

GOD UNDERSTANDS OUR PAIN

BOOK OF PSALMS

Psalms 88:10-12 (NIV)

¹⁰ Do you show your wonders to the dead? Do their spirits rise up and praise you? ¹¹ Is your love declared in the grave, your faithfulness in Destruction? ¹² Are your wonders known in the place of darkness, or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion?

Psalms 88:10-12 (NIV)

¹⁰ Do you show your wonders to the **dead**? Do their spirits rise up and praise you? ¹¹ Is your love declared in the **grave**, your faithfulness in Destruction? ¹² Are your wonders known in the place of **darkness**, or your righteous deeds in the land of **oblivion**?

Hebrews 4:14-15 (NLT)

¹⁴ So then, since we have a great High Priest who has entered heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we believe. ¹⁵ This High Priest of ours **understands** our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.

What did Jesus go through?

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- He was rejected by the people He loved.

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- He felt all alone in Gethsemane when His disciples fell asleep.

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- He was falsely accused.

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- He felt all alone in Gethsemane when His disciples fell asleep.
- He was falsely accused.
- He suffered at the cross.

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- He was betrayed by one of His closest friends.
- He experienced grief when Lazarus died.
- He felt all alone in Gethsemane when His disciples fell asleep.
- He was falsely accused.
- He suffered at the cross.
- He experienced death on the cross.

Isaiah 53:3 (NIV)

³ He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.
Like one from whom people hide their
faces he was despised, and we held him in
low esteem.

Psalms 88:9 (NIV)

⁹ ...I call to you, Lord, every day; I spread out my hands to you.

Darkness may shape how we feel,
but it can never change who God is.

Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

²⁸ “**Come to me**, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and **you will find rest for your souls**. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

3 truths about God in our darkness:

GOD WELCOMES OUR STRUGGLES

GOD UNDERSTANDS OUR PAIN

GOD BRINGS HOPE TO OUR CIRCUMSTANCES

Biblical hope isn't wishful thinking,
but knowing that God has the final say,
not our circumstances.

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

²⁸ And we know that in **all things** God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Psalm 88:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ ...darkness is my closest friend.

Psalms 88:1-2 (NIV)

¹ Lord, you are the God who saves me; day and night I cry out to you. ² May my prayer come before you; turn your ear to my cry.

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¹ Lord, you are the God who **saves** me; day and night I cry out to you. ² May my prayer come before you; turn your ear to my cry.

Darkness may shape how we feel,
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Acts 2:24 (NIV)

²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because **it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.**

John 16:33 (NIV)

³³ “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! **I have overcome the world.**”

Following God doesn't mean that
life is smooth-sailing. In fact, we will still
have troubles in life, but the good news is
that I am no longer facing these
struggles by myself.

ZANNA

Today, I know that no matter how
dark life may feel, I never have to walk
through it alone because God is with me.
He gave me a reason to keep living. He
showed me that my life has purpose.

ZANNA

That's why today I decided to
get baptised as I am committed
to follow Him. He is my hope, and
I know He will never leave me.

ZANNA

Psalms 88:8-9 (NIV)

⁸ ...I am confined and cannot escape; ⁹ my eyes are dim with grief...

Hebrews 12:2-3 (NIV)

² fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

3 truths about God in our darkness:

GOD WELCOMES

OUR STRUGGLES

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but it can never change who God is.

When we're struggling,
God doesn't push us away.
He welcomes us with open arms.

When we're hurting,
God doesn't say, "Get over it."
He understands our pain because
Jesus experienced suffering too, and
He wants to help us through.

When life feels hopeless,
God reminds us that He has the final say,
not our circumstances.

CLOSER THAN THE DARK

BOOK OF PSALMS

Romans 3:23 (NIV)

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of
the glory of God,

Romans 6:23 (NIV)

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Genesis 2:7 (NIV)

⁷ Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

John 3:16-17 (NIV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

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He will instruct him in the way chosen for him.
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10 They close up their callous hearts, and their mouths speak with arrogance.
 11 They have tracked me down, they now surround me,

with eyes alert, to throw me to the ground.

12 They are like a lion hungry for prey, like a great lion crouching in cover.

13 Rise up, O LORD, confront them; bring them down like a lion.

defender.
 my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge.
 He is my shield and the horn^a of my salvation, my stronghold.
 3 I call to the LORD, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies.
 4 The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.
 5 The cords of the grave^b coiled about me;

burning coals blazed out of it.
 9 He parted the heavens and came down; dark clouds were under his feet.
 10 He mounted the cherubim and flew; he soared on the wings of the wind.
 11 He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him — the dark rain clouds of the sky.
 12 Out of the brightness of his presence clouds advanced, with hailstones and bolts of lightning.
 13 The LORD thundered from heaven; the voice of the Most High resounded.
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 the LORD, "You are my Lord; from you I have no good thing." The saints who are in the land, are the glorious ones in whom is all my delight.^c

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5 LORD, you have assigned me my portion and my cup; you have made my lot secure.
 6 The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.

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