

December 8, 2023

The Lord wants you to live in His liberty and freedom.

Ps. 86:15 *But You, LORD, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness. (NIV)*

I read this saying a while back: *the evil of man does not negate the goodness of God.* How true that is. We are flawed, He is faithful. We are vindictive, He vindicates. We are sinful, He is perfect. David knew that even though he was a sinful and guilty man, he could always come to the Holy One Who is always pure and right and just. He then points out two beautiful characteristics of the Father: compassion and grace. The Hebrew word for compassion is **rachum** which means *full of care, love and mercy*. The LORD is completely compassionate. His heart beats with love for His children. He is always loving you. He will never stop. And His mercy comes as a result of that. **Ps. 103:10-14** *He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear Him; for He knows how we are formed, He remembers that we are dust. (NIV)*

The Father is also slow to anger. The Hebrew phrase here literally means *long in the face or nose*. It simply means that even though our sin is a stench in the nostrils of God, He is able to look forward to the redemption He would bring through Jesus. Hence, His anger would be poured out on the Lamb of God rather than upon us. And because of this, He is overflowing with love and faithfulness for us. This pictures a fountain that cannot run dry. It will continue to overflow no matter what the circumstances might be. Did you know that God loves you more than anyone else could ever love you? He will NEVER, EVER stop loving you!

Dear LORD, our loving and compassionate God. Thank You that You love us in spite of our sin and failures. You see us through the blood of the Savior. We are made clean and whole and righteous in Your sight. Thank You LORD! In Jesus Name, Amen