



## FINITE SUFFERING, INFINITE HOPE

PSALM 129 & 130: Songs of Ascent

1) Suffering is better in \_\_\_\_\_.

129 [1] "Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth"— **let Israel now say** — [2] "Greatly have they afflicted me from my youth, yet they have not prevailed against me."

2) Faith is \_\_\_\_\_.

2 **Corinthians 4:8-10** [8] We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; [9] persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; [10] always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

**Imprecatory:** *Invoke evil upon; curse*

Major IMPRECATORY PSALMS

5, 10, 17, 35, 58, 59, 69, 70, 79, 83, 109, 129, 137, and 140.

3) \_\_\_\_\_ is what God does for us,  
not what we do for ourselves.

**Romans 12:17-21** [17] Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. [18] If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. [19] Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." [20] To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." [21] Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

4) In His Word, I \_\_\_\_\_.

[5] I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

### DIGGING DEEPER

*Questions and reflections for your own personal or group study.*

- 1) How connected do you feel to the Body of Christ at Crossroads?
- 2) What is missing from your connection that you wish was stronger?
- 3) How did you lean on others the last time you suffered? Were there any key people or groups that really supported you during this time?
- 4) Does your faith feel fragile or tough? What feels like it could be a big threat to your faith?
- 5) When was the last time you sought justice on your own behalf? Do you think this was right or wrong?
- 6) Re-read Romans 12:17-21. Discuss this passage. What strikes you as challenging in the passage? Do you struggle with what Paul is saying?
- 7) Is praying for God's justice, while washing the feet of your enemy every something you've done?
- 8) What has snuck in and become a source of hope for you?