

145 I cried with all my heart; answer me, O Lord!
I will observe Your statutes.
146 I cried to You; save me
And I shall keep Your testimonies.
147 I rise before dawn and cry for help;
I wait for Your words.
148 My eyes anticipate the night watches,
That I may meditate on Your word.
149 Hear my voice according to Your lovingkindness;
Revive me, O Lord, according to Your ordinances.
150 Those who follow after wickedness draw near;
They are far from Your law.
151 You are near, O Lord,
And all Your commandments are truth.
152 Of old I have known from Your testimonies
That You have founded them forever.

145 קָרָאתִי בְּכָל-לַיְלָב עֲנֵנִי יְהוָה חֲקִיךָ אֲצַרְהָ :
146 קָרָאתִיךָ הוֹשִׁיעֵנִי וְאַשְׁמְרֵה עֲדֹתֶיךָ :
147 קָדַמְתִּי בַבֶּשֶׁף וְאַשְׁוָעָה לְדַבְרֵיךָ יַחְלֹתִי :
148 קָדַמְנוּ עֵינַי אֲשֶׁמְרוֹת לָשִׁיחַ בְּאַמְרֹתֶיךָ :
149 קוֹלִי שִׁמְעָה כַחֲסִדְךָ יְהוָה כְּמִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ חֲיִנִּי :
150 קָרְבוּ רַדְפֵי זְמָה מִתּוֹרֹתֶיךָ רַחֲקוּ :
151 קָרוֹב אַתָּה יְהוָה וְכָל-מִצְוֹתֶיךָ אֱמַת :
152 קָדָם יִדְעֹתִי מֵעֲדֹתֶיךָ כִּי לְעוֹלָם יִסְדָּתָם :

ק: God's Word motivates us to exhaustive prayer.

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| <p>1. The Qoph is the back of the head and demonstrates our need to follow the Lord through our life's journey.</p> <p>2. "Rise before" (v.147), "anticipate" (v.148), and "of old" (v.152) come from the קד q-d-m root meaning <i>front, east, forward, aforeside</i>. The modern Israeli political party Kadima (<i>forward!</i>) supplies our proper-name association for this strophe's theme.</p> <p>3. A fervent effectual prayer ministry is here defined as "with all my heart" (ψ¹¹⁹145). These are the prayers that only love for the Lord can motivate (Deut. 4:29; 6:5; 10:12; 11:13; 13:3; 26:16; 30:2,6,10).</p> | <p>4. The Lord's salvation by grace motivates greater works of thankful devotion (ψ¹¹⁹146 cp. Eph. 2:10; Tit. 3:4-8).</p> <p>5. A fervent effectual prayer ministry may require an early morning wakeup (ψ¹¹⁹147 cf. Ps. 5:3; 88:13; Mk. 1:35).</p> <p>6. A fervent effectual prayer ministry may require late-night Bible studies (ψ¹¹⁹148 cf. v.62; See 7).</p> <p>7. When God hears our prayers and takes action He is being faithful to His own character and His own promises (ψ¹¹⁹149 cf. Ps. 51:1; 69:16; 109:21; Ezek. 36:22-23).</p> | <p>8. Nearness of conflict (ψ¹¹⁹150) sparks nearness of fellowship with the Lord (ψ¹¹⁹151 cf. Deut. 4:7; Ps. 46:1; 145:18; Phil. 4:5-7).</p> <p>9. Previous prayerful preoccupation with precepts, principles, & promises is prudent & practical preparation for present predicaments and problems (ψ¹¹⁹152), precisely as prescribed in Proverbs (Prov. 8:1-11).</p> |
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Let God have your first awaking thoughts; lift up your hearts to Him reverently and thankfully for the rest enjoyed the night before and cast yourself upon Him for the day which follows. Familiarize yourself so consistently to this that your conscience may check you when common thoughts shall first intrude. Think of the mercy of a night's rest and of how many that have spent that night in hell; how many in prison; how many in cold, hard lodgings; how many suffering from agonizing pains and sickness, weary of their beds and of their lives. Think of how many souls were that night called from their bodies terrifyingly to appear before God and think how quickly days and nights are rolling on! How speedily your last night and day will come! Observe that which is lacking in the preparedness of your soul for such a time and seek it without delay.

Richard Baxter