

Good morning! Have you ever felt like you weren't making any progress in life? Sometimes we get into a place where we keep failing at some area of life. We want to do better but we keep failing, again and again. Sometimes it's the same problem and sometimes it's the accumulation of several problems, but whatever it is, we get into a rut where we can't seem to get better at being Christians. Of course, Christianity is not something we can ever "get good at," since it is a relationship and much of that relationship involves a life of repentance. Still, sometimes we seem to be more aware of our failures and can't seem to shake the feeling that we are failing. We can we do then? Does the Bible have anything to say about that? Yes! Let's consider this as we read today's passage together:

Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications! Answer me in Your faithfulness, in Your righteousness! And do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no man living is righteous. For the enemy has persecuted my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me dwell in dark places, like those who have long been dead.

**Psalm 143:1–3 NASB**

In today's passage, the psalmist is locked in a struggle with something that is, at one time or another, a problem for each of us. Can you see it? Let's read it together: *"For the enemy has persecuted my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground; he has made me dwell in dark places, like those who have long been dead."* He is battling condemnation, the feeling that God condemns us for our failures. Has that ever happened to you? Each of us has an enemy, Satan, who John (in Rev. 12:10) calls "the accuser of our brothers". He accuses us, seeking to make us feel guilty and unworthy. He constantly reminds us of our failures and our shortcomings and if we let him go on speaking to us, he'll crush our lives to the ground. Have you ever felt that soul-crushing condemnation? What can we do about it?

The answer is found in today's passage. The psalmist cried out to God in prayer, saying, *"Give ear to my supplications. Answer me in Your faithfulness, in Your righteousness!"* When you and I are struggling with condemnation and this sense of unworthiness, it is so important to stop listening to our accuser any longer!

We must turn away from Satan and turn to God and ask Him for help. Remember, our cry for help is not based on our own righteousness (we don't have any!) but on God's faithfulness and righteousness. When we ask God to answer us on the basis of *His* righteousness and *His* faithfulness, He answers us and releases us from that dark power of condemnation. If you are struggling with a sense of unworthiness this morning, tell devil, "You're right! I'm not worthy but Jesus is worthy and He has taken my place...and His righteousness is mine!"