

“The Face of God” -Psalm 80

*Psalm 80 1 Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.*

*2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh. Stir up your might, and come to save us!*

*3 Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

*4 O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?*

*5 You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.*

*6 You make us the scorn of our neighbours; our enemies laugh among themselves.*

*7 Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

*8 You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.*

*9 You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.*

*10 The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches;*

*11 It sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the River*

*12 Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?*

*13 The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.*

*14 Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine,*

*15 the stock that your right hand planted*

*16 They have burned it with fire, they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance.*

*17 But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.*

*18 Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.*

*19 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.*

Let us pray . . . restore us O Lord God of hosts, let your face shine, that we may be saved.

1. The context of Psalm 80 is steeped in distress and sorrow. In the year 586 BCE the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar swept down on Israel with the might of a hammer, destroyed Judah, carried off its people, and left a few poor souls behind to tend the land. The temple was gone. All of Israel's prayers seemed to have fallen to the ground unanswered. The psalmist cries, "How long will you be angry with your people's prayers? You have fed them with the bread of tears.." Have you ever felt like this and wondered, God, I prayed. You did nothing. Where are you? And when you do feel this way, do you pray like the psalmist? Do you cry out to him in this raw and honest way?

2. There is a hint in this psalm that help is coming. "Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you have made strong for yourself." Christians see there as Jesus Christ, the one at God's right hand, the strong one who can save. God reveal himself in the Son Jesus, and Jesus is reveal in the Holy Spirit. and the Holy Spirit is revealed in the faces of the redeemed.

As one redeemed and created in his image, how can you reveal God's face to others?

3. 2 Chronicles 7:14 said that "if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." At this time our world needs healing of all kind, how would you seek God's face?
4. If God's face shining on us is God revealing himself and showing favour upon us? How has God's shone has face upon you?