

Isaiah 30:18-22

I went to a friend of mine's church and heard a service on memorials in the Bible (it was memorial day in the U.S.) and one of the passages referred to was Isaiah 30:18.

¹⁸ Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you;
he rises to show you compassion.
For the LORD is a God of justice.
Blessed are all who wait for him!

As I read this passage and continued on I was encouraged by what I read. The Bible says that God *longs* to be gracious to us. He wants to pour out His mercy upon all who believe in His son. The pastor made an interesting point that God didn't need anyone to tell Him how great He is and He didn't need to create humans; but because of His *compassion* and *love* He created us and gave us free will. And when we sinned He didn't just scrap all human beings and destroy us, He sent His son to save us from our sins and show us how to *live*! "The lord is a God of justice and *blessed* are all who wait for him!" God wants to bless *everyone* who waits for His return and who obey His commands.

If we read on Isaiah 30:19-22 says:

¹⁹ O people of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious He will be when you cry for help! As soon as He hears, He will answer you. ²⁰ Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them. ²¹ Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it." ²² Then you will defile your idols overlaid with silver and your images covered with gold; you will throw them away like a menstrual cloth and say to them, "Away with you!"

Again, God promises to show us unworthy people His *grace* when we cry for help. The Bible says, "Your teachers will be hidden no more." I have experienced this form of God's grace when His Spirit touched me and convicted me of the sin in my life through a fellow brother in Christ. God has also provided me with teachers at a Bible study I have been attending and through many other contacts. "If you seek you shall find" Amen! Verse 22 also spoke to me. When I called on God's grace to help me overcome sin in my life and to know Him more, He gave me victory and I triumphed over some major areas of my life that were separating me from Him. God is such a merciful and gracious God, and in His mercy He gives us "the bread of adversity and the water of affliction" to mold us into the Godly people He created us to be. Brothers and sisters, God wants us to grow stronger through Him and not by our own power. If we cry for His help He is faithful and His Holy Spirit will give us the answers and the power to overcome *any* principality or power. I pray that our hearts will not become callused and we will not become complacent with past victories; but that might continue to seek His kingdom first and grow spiritually.

God Bless