



REFLECTIONS

September 28, 2014 Refreshed from the Archives of August 14, 2005

**the Lord our God is near us whenever we
pray to him**

Deuteronomy 4:7

God's Address

Troubles seem to awaken with me each morning. Sometimes I wonder if they ever rest. Trials of life are just a part of it seems. A friend of mine, when asked about his troubles, responded this way. "My trials are troubling," he said only to quickly minimize them by adding, "but they are just life things." But some of the trials we face are more than just life things. Some of them are life *changing* things.

In reflecting on my family and dear friends and the matters they face each day, I recall some hopeful words from Dallas Willard. While encouraging us not to despair, he said, "When you reach the end of your rope, God is there. The End of Your Rope is God's address." But whether or not you are at the end of your rope, I would like to offer this edition of *Reflections* as a prayer for you. Let's begin with the moving and beautiful words sung by Jean Valjean in *Les Misérables*.

"God on high, hear my prayer, in my need you have always been there."

So today I come to you to ask that you draw my family and friends near to you that they may feel your presence and your love as you guide them through difficult days that may lie ahead. I ask that you help them experience your support, your mercy, and your love, and at your doorstep may they may find your peace.

We thank you dear God for all the many blessings of our lives, for our families, for our friends, for the abundance of life we enjoy in the country you have blessed us to live in. We ask your help in remembering to honor you with those many blessings.

Please help us to remember that you are with us always as you promised, and to understand that we need not wait for times of despair to come to you. Help us grow in our relationship with you, to speak with you continually as Apostle Paul encouraged, to listen even as your replies come in unexpected ways, and to feel your hand as you gently guide us down our paths.

Gracious God we come to you in thanksgiving that you are always there in our times of need and for the comfort we find when we come to you; and we pray these things in the precious name of your Son, Jesus the Christ.

Amen.

No matter the level of troubles we face, a daily visit to God's address is a wonderful practice. The trip is not a long one. Best yet, He is always there.

You are the light of the world,

Richard +

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