

## FOR THE LORD IS GOOD TESTIMONY

For the Lord is Good testimonies  
Started with Davy Grimes  
Continued with Mission Expo  
And there are many, many more to come – many more  
Today is my turn, my testimony

I want to both preach & testify  
To do that, I want to use a launching pad  
Psalm 116

## PSALM 116

We have no authorship  
No date  
Perhaps it was written by a private person

Deeply personal and intensely intimate experience  
Maybe part of remnant returning from Babylon

Moved from a crisis to personal praise  
Psalm of thanksgiving  
Declaration of trust, trust in God's providence  
Hymn of gratitude for God's deliverance

## THREE STANZAS OF HOW GOOD THE LORD IS TO HIM

### STANZA 1: God heard me (1-2)

<sup>1</sup> **I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.**

<sup>2</sup> **Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.**

**Psalm 116:1-2**

Knowing God loves & cares for me, motivates me to call Him

### STANZA 2: God delivered me (3-5)

<sup>3</sup> **The snares of death (prevailing expression; see 8, 9 & 15) encompassed me;**

*the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;  
I suffered distress and anguish.*

<sup>4</sup> **Then I called on the name of the LORD:**

*“O LORD, I pray, deliver my soul! (“I have no other refuge)”*

<sup>5</sup> **Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;**

*our God is merciful (is why we call on the Lord because that's who He is).*

**Psalm 116:3-5**

### STANZA THREE: God saved me (6-9)

<sup>6</sup> **The LORD preserves the simple;  
when I was brought low, he saved me.**

<sup>7</sup> **Return, O my soul, to your rest;  
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.**

**(Three sweeping confessions)**

<sup>8</sup> **For you have delivered my soul from death,  
my eyes from tears,  
my feet from stumbling;**

*<sup>9</sup> I will walk before the LORD  
in the land of the living.  
<sup>10</sup> I believed, even when I spoke:  
“I am greatly afflicted”;  
<sup>11</sup> I said in my alarm (hastily),  
“All mankind are liars.”*

**Psalm 116:6-11**

## **HIS RESPONSE**

*<sup>12</sup> What shall I render to the LORD  
for all his benefits to me?*

**Psalm 116:12**

How do I respond?  
What do I say?  
What can I return to the Lord?  
Can I return anything to the Lord?

## **THE RESULT**

### **With WORSHIP (13-14, Three movements)**

*<sup>13</sup> I will lift up the cup of salvation (expressing acceptance)  
and call on the name (expressing of dependence) of  
the LORD,*

*<sup>14</sup> I will pay my vows (expressing obedience) to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people.*

### **With SURRENDER (15-16)**

*<sup>15</sup> Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of his saints.*

**(God regards death of a child of his w/special interest)**

*<sup>16</sup> O LORD, I am your servant;  
I am your servant, the son of your maidservant.  
You have loosed my bonds.*

## With GRATITUDE (17-19)

***17 I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and call on the name of the LORD (not out of obligation, but  
devotion)***

***18 I will pay my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people,***

***19 in the courts of the house of the LORD,  
in your midst, O Jerusalem.***

*Praise the LORD!*

## MY PERSONAL FOR THE LORD IS GOOD TESTIMONY

How do I respond to 30 years of ministry with you?

Perhaps the psalmist can help me, when he wrote,

*What shall I render to the LORD  
for all his benefits to me?*

**Psalm 116:12**

What shall I render to the Lord?

Nothing. I can offer him nothing.

I cannot repay the Lord for all His good to me

## WHY CAN I NOT REPAY THE LORD

The psalmist is right: we can never repay all the good the Lord has done for us.

To do so, would be the antithesis to our Christian faith.

We are saved by faith

Christianity is founded on grace, not repayment

God's grace cancels all my debts

Thus, I have no debt to God

Besides, how could I ever repay the Lord?  
That is not possible.

If we were to try to repay Him, it would shift our relationship  
from a child to a debtor  
from love to obligation  
from grace received to merit earned

So, what shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?

### **I NEVER KNEW I WOULD BE YOUR PASTOR**

#### **I never knew I would be A PASTOR**

Football coach or teacher, maybe, but never a pastor  
House painter or janitor, possibly, but never a pastor  
Businessman or entrepreneur, potentially, but never a pastor

#### **Moreover, I never knew I would be YOUR PASTOR**

Vonda and I went into ministry with blind loyalty  
We didn't know **WHERE** He would take us  
We didn't know **WHAT** He would do with us  
We didn't know **HOW** He would use us  
We didn't know **WHO** He would place in our lives  
But we knew **WHO** we were trusting

And we knew we could trust the Lord  
We knew He would not fail us  
We knew He would always care for us  
We knew He would always be there for us