

Friday, September 4, 2026
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Essential Truth: *The Lord cares, He responds! (HE acts)*

Scripture:

Joel 2:18 Then the Lord became jealous for his land and had pity on his people.
Zechariah 1:14b This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'I am very jealous for Jerusalem and Zion,
Psalm 72:13 He will take pity on the weak and needy and save the needy from death.

Observations:

Jealous: fiercely protective or vigilant of one's rights or possessions (Of God): demanding faithfulness and exclusive worship

Zealous: fervent partisanship for a person, a cause or an ideal

- The land and crops are ravaged, resulting in the very real risk of imminent famine
- The Lord still is very engaged and caring for His creation - yes, the land and the people "Jealous for us" or "zealous"
- His heart overflows to us and aches when we seek our own answers or independent devices to solve our problems, our idolatry.
- He takes pity, not just sympathetic to our prayers, but is ready and able to act in our lives
- There is no doubt about the Lord's zeal for his people; rather, am I truly willing for Him to act.

Application:

When I feel hopeless in my circumstances, I am tempted to believe that God has abandoned me, that He doesn't care. If I call out to Him, do I believe He will hear and answer? Lord, increase my faith! Does my pride obstruct me from seeking God's help? Let me seek Him humbly, willing to surrender myself to His loving care, willing to respond to the Spirit's moving in my heart. Joel 2:18 is truth and assurance for me; He will do what I cannot. "Let go and let God"

Prayer:

Dear Lord, who am I, a mere fleeting shadow, that You should take notice of me? Please forgive my pride, my "self-sufficiency" and take me to Yourself. I find rest and comfort in Your loving welcoming arms. Under Your wings I find healing and refuge. You restore my soul and so let me see Your face — may You be glorified and receive praise for Your intervention and lovingkindness to me. Thank You for having pity on me, and for being my strong rock, as in the past, even more so now, and moving forward in Your way in the future. You are unchanging and sure. In Jesus' Name, Amen

