

*Psalm. 88 (NRSV- modified where underlined)*

*A Song. A Psalm of the Korahites.*

*To the leader: according to Mahalath Leannothe.*

*A Maskil of Heman the Ezrahite.*

- 1* O Yahweh, God of my salvation,  
when, at night, I cry out in your presence,
- 2* let my prayer come before you;  
incline your ear to my cry.
- 3* For my soul is full of troubles,  
and my life draws near to the Grave.

- 4 I am counted among those who go down to the Pit;  
I am like those who have no help,
- 5 like those forsaken among the dead,  
like the slain that lie in the grave,  
like those whom you remember no more,  
for they are cut off from your hand.
- 6 You have put me in the depths of the Pit,  
in the regions dark and deep.
- 7 Your wrath lies heavy upon me,  
and you overwhelm me with all your waves.

- 8 You have caused my companions to shun me;  
you have made me a thing of horror to them.  
I am shut in so that I cannot escape;
- 9 my eye grows dim through sorrow.  
Every day I call on you, O Yahweh;  
I spread out my hands to you.
- 10 Do you work wonders for the dead?  
Do the shades rise up to praise you? *Selah*
- 11 Is your steadfast love declared in the grave,  
or your faithfulness in the Underworld?
- 12 Are your wonders known in the darkness,  
or your saving help in the land of forgetfulness?

- 13* But I, O Yahweh, cry out to you;  
in the morning my prayer comes before you.
- 14* O Yahweh, why do you cast me off?  
Why do you hide your face from me?
- 15* Wretched and close to death from my youth up,  
I suffer your terrors; I am desperate.
- 16* Your wrath has swept over me;  
your dread assaults destroy me.
- 17* They surround me like a flood all day long;  
from all sides they close in on me.
- 18* You have caused friend and neighbor to shun me;  
my companions... darkness.

# Holding to the Left

Psalm 88



# What are the things we need to maintain faith in hard times?

- Humility
- Tension and Mystery
- Lament

“And should you offer us the cup of suffering, though heavy, brimming full and bitter brand, we’ll thankfully accept it, never flinching, from your good heart and your beloved hand.”

- 1944 (approx. 4 months before execution)

*Letters and Papers from Prison*, p. 529



LETTERS AND PAPERS  
FROM PRISON

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

- <http://images.christianpost.com/blog/full/29504/god-world-in-his-hands2.jpg?w=252&h=151>
- <http://www.manieconnoway.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/Pleading.jpg>
- <https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/I/51VGYI-KoFL.SX331.BO1,204,203,200.jpg>