Dear Open Door Family,

I used to do a lot of translating in English to Spanish. One thing I learned over the years is that many times there is more than one way of translating something. The less technical something is the more this is true. So it should not surprise us that translating poetry from Hebrew to English would lead to some variation. The differences do not change the meaning but they do give a slightly different focus. This is one of the reasons that I change translations of the Bible for my devotional reading every year or so. I find that the differences in words help me to pay closer attention, to savor the words, and to think about them and what they mean. Another way of doing that is to compare translations of the same verse. This makes the verse come alive for me. It is like looking at the same picture in black and white and then looking at it in color. The color (different translations) help me to see all the wonder of the words that are there. Let's look at this savor this verse together.

Psalm 94:19 *(NLT) When DOUBTS FILLED my mind,* ***YOUR*** *COMFORT gave me RENEWED HOPE and cheer.*

Psalm 94:19 *(NET) When WORRIES threaten to OVERWHELM me,* ***YOUR*** *SOOTHING TOUCH makes me happy.*

Psalm 94:19 *(HCS) When I am FILLED with CARES,* ***YOUR*** *COMFORT brings me joy.*

Have you ever been FILLED with DOUBTS? Have you ever been OVERWHELMED with WORRIES? Have you ever been FILL with the CARES? I have felt ALL of those things many times in my life. The Psalmist was being very honest when he talked about these things. But the answer is found in the second half of the verse. When he was overwhelmed or filled with doubts and worries he SOUGHT out GOD. It is the turning in point in the verse. The **YOUR** is God. God's Comfort, God's Touch is what gave him Hope and Cheer. God soothed the worries and fears and brought back joy. Where do we go when we are OVERWHELMED with doubt, fear, worry? Do we try to fix the problem ourselves? Do we try to get others to fix it for us? The Psalmist says go to God. Earlier in the same Psalm he uses questions to help us see the extent and power of God.

Psalm 94:9 *(NLT) Is he deaf - the one who made your ears? Is he blind - the one who formed your eyes*?

If God designed and made our ears so that they function in such an incredible way. Why do we act as if He cannot hear us? If God designed the miracle of the eye so that we can see all that is around us. What makes us think He does not see everything that is happening to us? So our God who hears and sees is the God to whom we should ALL go with our Worries, Doubts, Fears. We are to go to Him when we feel overwhelmed and cannot think clearly. We are to go to Him and expect His touch, we are to look for our Hope to be Renewed, we should expect the joy that only He can bring.

PRAYER: Lord God, when I am overwhelmed, and full of fear, please help me to come straight to You. Help me to trust You and to expect Your Comfort and Your touch. Lord God, thank you for the Joy that You bring even in the midst of difficulties and trials.

Pastor Mark Kieft
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