

I DIDN'T ASK FOR "THE SMOKE"! PS. 119:81-88

KAPH: It's the picture of a praying believer reaching out to God for the answer.

I. THE IMPACT OF THE SMOKE v. 81-83; 85-88

Mark 2:22 "And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins."

II. QUESTIONS IN THE SMOKE v. 82, 84

v. 82 – "_____?" V. 84 – "How long?.....When?"

When you can't see God working, keep focused on the _____!

III. PRAYING IN THE SMOKE

A. v. 86 - All your commands are trustworthy; **help me**, for I am being persecuted without cause.

"Help me" – protect, give support, encouragement, often a _____ term

B. v. 88 - In your unfailing love **preserve my life** (sustain, to revive from my discouragement), that I may obey the statutes of your mouth.

Warren Wiersbe: He knows how long and how _____.

In the spiritual world, there is a come-back from being a dried out wineskin!

IV. SURVIVING THE SMOKE

⁸² My eyes fail, **looking for your promise**;

⁸³ Though I am like a wineskin in the smoke, **I do not forget your decrees**.

⁸⁷ They **almost** wiped me from the earth, but **I have not forsaken your precepts**.

Ps. 73: ² But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.

³ For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.....

¹⁶ When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply ¹⁷ till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.

That's the secret: _____ and being in God's presence.

Do you remember the "almosts" of your life?

