

# Psalms 88:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Mine eye mourneth by reason of affliction: LORD, I have called daily upon thee, I have stretched out my hands unto thee.

## Analysis

**Mine eye mourneth by reason of affliction** (דְּאָבָה מִפִּי טַיִן, daavah minni eyni)—The eye grows dim, fails, languishes from weeping and suffering. Physical symptom mirrors inner anguish. Yet notice the steadfast persistence: **LORD, I have called daily upon thee** (קָרָאתָךְ לְהָיוֹ בְּכָל-יּוֹם, keratikha YHWH bekholyom)—The covenant name YHWH appears, affirming relationship despite feeling abandoned. "Daily" emphasizes unrelenting faithfulness in prayer despite apparent divine silence.

**I have stretched out my hands unto thee** (שִׁתְּחַתִּי אֶלְךָ כַּפֵּי, shitachti eleikha khapai)—Hands extended in supplication, the universal gesture of desperate need. Spreading out the palms signifies total vulnerability and dependence. This posture anticipates Christ on the cross, hands stretched out in the ultimate prayer of abandonment and trust—"Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit" (Luke 23:46).

## Historical Context

Daily prayer was central to Jewish piety, reflected in the Shema's call to constant devotion (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) and later formalized in the temple's morning and evening sacrifices. The psalmist maintains this discipline even when prayer seems futile—a model of persistent faith that Jesus commended in His teaching on prayer (Luke 18:1-8).

## Related Passages

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**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How do you maintain daily prayer when God seems silent day after day?
2. What does it mean to continue using God's covenant name (LORD/YHWH) even when feeling abandoned by Him?
3. How might your continued "stretching out of hands" in prayer be an act of faith even when you receive no apparent answer?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּכָל	יָתַר	הַ	קְבָאָת	יְהָ	עַ	נִ	מִתְ	עַ	אָבָה	הַ	עִינֵ	עַ
<b>Mine eye</b>	<b>mourneth</b>	H4480	<b>by reason of affliction</b>		<b>I have called</b>		<b>LORD</b>					
H5869	H1669		H6040		H7121		H3605					H3068

  
וּ	מִ	עַ	שָׁטָ	חַטָּא	כְּפִי	אֲלֵיכָם						
**daily**	**upon thee I have stretched out**		H413		**my hands**							
H3117	H7849				H3709							

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 86:3** (References Lord): Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily.

**Job 11:13** (Parallel theme): If thou prepare thine heart, and stretch out thine hands toward him;

**Psalms 143:6** (Parallel theme): I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land. Selah.

**Psalms 38:10** (Parallel theme): My heart panteth, my strength faileth me: as for the light of mine eyes, it also is gone from me.

