Where to Get Help in the Book of Psalms

from the Life Application Study Bible

When you feel...

Afraid: 3; 4; 27; 46; 49; 56; 91; 118 Overwhelmed: 25; 69; 142 Alone: 9; 10; 12; 13; 27; 40; 43 Penitent/Sorry: 32; 51; 66

Burned out: 6; 63 Proud: 14; 30; 49

Cheated: 41 Purposeless: 14; 25; 39; 49; 90

Confused: 10; 12; 73 Sad: 13

Depressed: 27; 34; 42; 43; 88; 143 Self-confident: 24

Distressed: 13; 25; 31; 40; 107 Tense: 4

Elated: 19; 96 Thankful: 118; 136; 138 Guilt: 19; 32; 38; 51 Threatened: 3; 11; 17

Hateful: 11 Tired/Weak: 6; 13; 18; 28 ; 29; 40; 86

Impatient: 13; 27; 37; 40 Trapped: 7; 17; 42; 88; 142
Insecure: 3; 5; 12; 91 Unimportant: 8; 90; 139
Insulted: 41; 70 Vengeful: 3; 7; 109

Jealous: 37 Worried: 37

Like Quitting: 29; 43; 145 Worshipful: 8; 19; 27; 29; 150

Lost: 23; 139

When you're facing...

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Criticism: 35; 56; 120 Persecution: 1; 3; 7; 56

Danger: 11 Poverty: 9; 10; 12

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Discrimination: 54 Slaughter: 6; 46; 83 Doubts: 34; 37; 94 Sorrow: 23; 34

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Heresy: 14 Troubles: 34; 55; 86; 102; 142; 145

Hypocrisy: 26; 28; 40; 50 Verbal Cruelty: 35; 120

Illness: 6; 139

When you want...

Acceptance: 139 Justice: 2; 7; 14; 26; 37; 49; 58; 82 Answers: 4; 17 Knowledge: 2; 8; 18; 19; 25; 29; 97; 103

Confidence: 46; 71 Leadership: 72
Courage: 11; 42 Miracles: 60; 111
Fellowship w/ God: 5; 16; 25; 27; 37; 133 Money: 15; 16; 17; 49

Forgiveness: 32; 38; 40; 51; 69; 86; 103; 130 Peace: 3; 4

Friendship: 16 Perspective: 2; 11 Godliness: 15; 25 Prayer: 5; 17; 27; 61

Guidance: 1; 5; 15; 19; 25; 32; 48 Protection: 3; 4; 7; 16; 17; 18; 23; 27;

31; 91; 121; 125

Healing: 6; 41 Provision: 23 Hope: 16; 17; 18; 23; 27 Rest: 23; 27

Humility: 19; 147 Salvation: 26; 37; 49; 126 Illumination: 19 Stability: 11; 33; 46

Integrity: 24; 25 Vindication: 9; 14; 28; 35; 109 Joy: 9; 16; 28; 126 Wisdom: 1; 16; 19; 64; 111

While you pray...

Realize your feelings are important to God. God cares for you. Some feelings may seem "unchristian", but they're not. You were created with emotions. In order to have an intimate relationship with someone, including God, both parties need to be honest. We cannot be whole when engaging in a coverup, so practice expressing yourself to God. In her book, *Getting Involved with God: Rediscovering the Old Testament*, Ellen Davis describes the Psalms as

a kind of First Amendment for the faithful. They guarantee us complete freedom of speech before God, and then (something no secular constitution would ever do) they give us a detailed model of how to exercise that freedom, even up to its dangerous limits, to the very brink of rebellion.

While Psalms give the freedom and tools to express our emotions to God, we also need to receive them with wisdom as responsible stewards. The Psalms teach us to not just air our feelings, but to seek wholeness and healing, not just for ourselves but for our enemies, our community, and all creation.

Praying Psalms in your own voice is a good place to start. Later, consider the Psalms as your neighbor's prayer as well. By hearing the voice of a neighbor in the Psalms, you may be challenged to change a behavior or attitude for the sake of the Kingdom of God.