

## Awaken Me: A Psalm for the Suffering Church

**Awaken** me, Lord, to the suffering of Your Body.

**Brothers** and sisters around the world wait for You all day long:

**Carrying** in their broken bodies the death of Jesus,

**Demonstrating** by their lives Your Son's crucifixion and resurrection.

**Envelop** me with the awareness of our connectedness.

**Fill** me with a willingness to share their burden.

**Glorious** and mighty is the Lord!

**His** heavenly hosts will do battle for His people.

**In** His time He will deliver us from our enemies.

**Joy** will come in the morning; but first we weep.

**Kings** and rulers persecute God's people.

**Like** their master Satan they hate Jesus and His followers.

**Martyrs** testify to the victory of the Gospel in life and in death, and

**Nations** will know that the Lord is God because of their faithfulness.

**Only** You, Lord, can bring good out of what is meant for evil, for You are

**Present** in the scars and even the freshly bleeding wounds of tortured saints,

**Quiet** – but transforming – in the miracle of mercy, of the tortured forgiving the torturers,

**Redeeming** all, yet hating injustice and evil.

**Steel** Your Body, therefore, to fight that injustice and evil in the power of Your Spirit so that when the Son of Man comes in Glory He will

**Testify** that when He was hungry, we gave Him food and when He was in prison we visited Him.

**Until** that Day, keep us from apathy, indifference, and willful blindness,

**Vanquish** our natural gravitation to self, and self-centered prayer, and give us grace to love Your Body as ourselves, and to cry out on their behalf like the prophet:

**“Wake!** O arm of the Lord! Awake! Clothe Yourself with strength.” We bless You and thank You for the promise:

**Your** people will be delivered. Your ransomed people will have no more sorrow. They will sing with joy and return to **Zion**.