

Bless the Lord
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"Bless the LORD, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul." Psalm 103:22

The first thing to remember (and this is important when reading the Old Testament, especially the Psalms) is that the word "Soul" is bigger than what we think of it today. See, we are part of Western Culture, springing forth from the Greeks, and they *divided* a person into two parts - a body and a soul - where the body is the physical but the soul is that... floaty out there thingee. (Yes, that was very precise language). That's not how the Scriptures speak.

This word here for soul isn't just the spiritual aspect of you, but it is the essence and fullness of life - in fact, many times it gets translated as life, or being. It's not merely a part of who you are - it is the very fullness of your existence. And Psalm 103 begins and ends with David calling upon his soul, his life, his being to bless the LORD, to declare the greatness of what God has done.

So, all the words of God - His whole creation - is to praise God. All the wondrous things under His control and care are to bless the LORD. And then, as the pinnacle, the highest and most astonishing thing in all of the creation - your soul, your life, your being - Bless the LORD. Why? For you are His workmanship, and you are within His dominion.

God has made some mighty fantastic things - angels and aardvarks, galaxies and gazelles, physics and electricity and smell of a nice campfire (I'll even throw in pumpkin spice for some of you) - but of all these wondrous things that God has made - you are the tops, the most wondrous. And He has dominion over you - meaning that He rules over you with mercy and love, removing your transgressions "as far as the east is from the west" (v. 12).

Sometimes we see the wonder of this creation. Sometimes, the week is rough and we don't see it that well. Whatever way your week wends, remember that the God who made it all loves you utterly, and not so much that He is on your side, but rather that you are on His Side, and He never fails. This is Jesus's love for you.