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Lord, do not forsake me; do not be far from me, my God

(Psalm 38:21)

Come and help me!

„Freunde des Wortes“

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Dear friends of the word,

His mother was killed by a snake bite when he was 4 years old. His father was killed by a neighboring tribe when he was 18. He had to flee, first to a neighboring country, then through the desert to northern Africa. Many of his friends died on this journey in excruciating heat. He was put into jail for a few month because he was a foreigner. People demanded money of him that he didn't have. A colleague bought him out. He was tormented by a group of rowdy and lawless boys because of his religion. He had to flee again. He'd been on the road for two years when he stepped onto a small and overcrowded dinghy with 145 other refugees. At sea the engine failed and the refugees lost all sense of orientation. He recalls: "It was terrible. We didn't have any space in the boat. Everyone was crying. The boat was filling up with water in this 'desert like sea'. There was no other vessel in sight. These were the worst hours of my life. **I saw death!** With tears in my eyes I prayed '**Jesus, if I have to die now I'm ready, but if you can help me please save us.**'" Over the horizon a boat of the Italian coast guard appeared. The crew had spotted the small dinghy. "They took us to Sicily where I arrived on the 15th of September and received some medical treatment. Now I'm here with you but again, I'm not allowed to stay!" - "**Lord, do not forsake me, do not be far from me, my God!**"

Dear friends of the word, there are moments in life where we have nothing left to carry us forward or to give us hope. Nothing works anymore. Everything is hopeless. There is the danger of retreating into our shell, to become mute, to give up. Our panoramic view, which gave us direction becomes short- sighted and gets lost. You can't find a path for yourself anymore!

In these moments the Psalm "Lord, do not forsake me, do not be far from me, my God!" can be helpful, to not become mute and cry out for help. At those times, which can happen to any of us through accidents, illness, through loss and other shattering experiences it's good to remember this Psalm. Let's repeat it over and over again: "Lord, do not forsake me, do not be far from me, my God!" Or shorter: **Come and help me!**

For the OnWordTeam Meinolf Wacker