**A PRAYER from Psalm 38 adapted and personalized for Baptist spiritual workers**

**PSALM 38 DEPARTURE FROM GOD’S WAYS**

**Psa 38:1** O LORD I blew it, don't punish me in your anger! My conscience is stricken.

Psa 38:2 You have wounded my soul with your arrows; you have struck me down.

Psa 38:3 Because of your anger, I am in emotional agony; even my whole physical body is diseased because of my wrong doings.

Psa 38:4 I am drowning in the flood of my spiritual neglect; they are a burden too heavy to bear.

Psa 38:5 Because I have been foolish, thinking more of ‘me’ than of YOU, I broke the first commandment; I had my own priorities; my sores stink and rot.

Psa 38:6 I am bent over, I am crushed; I mourn all day long.

Psa 38:7 I am burning with fever and I feel near death.

Psa 38:8 I am worn out and my soul is utterly crushed; my heart is troubled, and I groan with pain.

Psa 38:9 O Lord, you know that I long for Your *peace* and *intimacy*; you hear all my groans.

Psa 38:10 My heart is pounding, my strength is gone, and my eyes have lost your brightness.

Psa 38:11 My friends and neighbors will not come near me, because of my sores, my life stinks; even my family keeps away from me.

Psa 38:12 Those MEN who want to destroy me lay traps for me, and those who want to hurt me threaten to ruin me; they never stop plotting against me.

Psa 38:13 I am like the deaf and cannot hear you Holy Spirit, like the dumb and cannot communicate with you Heavenly Father.

Psa 38:14 I am like those who do not answer, because they cannot hear.

Psa 38:15 But I trust in you, O LORD my Deliverer; and you, O Lord my God, will answer me.

Psa 38:16 Don't let my enemies gloat over my distress; don't let these MEN boast about my downfall!

Psa 38:17 I am about to fall and am in constant emotional turmoil.

Psa 38:18 I confess my despicable spiritual stupidities; they fill me with anxiety.

Psa 38:19 My enemies are healthy and strong; there are many MEN who hate me for no reason.

Psa 38:20 Those MEN who pay back evil for good are against me because I try to do right.

Psa 38:21 Do not abandon my soul, O Gracious LORD; do not stay away, my God of mercy!

Psa 38:22 Help me now, O Lord my savior!