

Confident within a Crisis

Psalm 57: 1-11

Our text today records a familiar scene in the life of David, soon after his anointing as king over Israel. Once again, we find him on the run from King Saul, hiding in a cave in an effort to preserve his life. Like many times before, David face a dire situation, and yet he had not lost hope. He remained confident in the Lord, regardless of the circumstances that surrounded him.

As far as I know, we have not faced a situation like this, but we all have dealt with crisis in our lives. At times, these seem insurmountable; we wonder how we will endure the difficulty that has become prevalent in our lives. Like David, we must place our trust in one who is bigger than the difficulties we face.

As we discuss the [insights](#) of David within this psalm, I want us to consider the thought: [Confident within a Crisis](#).

I. A Cry of Desperation (1-3) – In the opening verses, we discover the desperate cry David offered unto the Lord, urgently needing Him to respond to his situation. Consider:

A. His Desire (1a) – [Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee](#). Like many times before, David realized the desperation he faced. He would not survive apart from the Lord's hand of provision in his life. He cried out for the Lord to be merciful unto him, revealing his trust in the Lord alone to meet his need. (We all encounter difficulties that we are unable to handle. In those times of desperation, our only hope is for the Lord to be merciful unto us, providing the help needed to overcome.)

B. His Defense (1b) – [yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast](#). David may have been hiding in a cave from his enemies, but he was not relying on the rocky crag to provide the safety and security he needed. David declared that he had made his refuge under the shadow of the Almighty's wings, determined to stay there until the calamities passed over.

- I have never been forced to hide-out in a cave for survival, but there have been situations when I needed the shelter of the Lord. We have a place of refuge we can go when the storms of life threaten us. Being under His wings, we are secure from the attack of the enemy. [Psalm 91:1 – He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty](#).

C. His Devotion (2) – *I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth all things for me.* While none could argue that David faced a desperate situation, we do not find him resigned to defeat. Although physically outnumbered, David rested in the provision of God. He had made his petition known to the one who performed all things for David. He knew God would fight his battles, and he rested confidently in the Lord.

- As believers, we are aware of the many promises of God in the Bible. We know He is faithful to those who belong to Him, and yet many times we are consumed with worry and fear. We need the attitude and devotion of David. While it is often difficult, we must give our problems to the Lord and trust Him to handle them on our behalf.

D. His Decision (3) – *He shall send from heaven, and save me from the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth.* David refused to allow fear to dictate his actions. He restrained the urge to fight against his enemies, choosing rather to depend upon the Lord to deliver him and prevent the reproach that sought to swallow him up. He rested in God's ability to provide, and knew God would show great mercy and truth.

- Such a decision is often quite difficult. Most of the time we want to engage our adversaries, taking the situation into our own hands, rather than giving it to the Lord and patiently waiting for Him to bring about a resolution. Such restraint requires faith and patience. We are secure in the Lord's hand, and many times we need to allow Him to fight our battles for us.

II. A Crisis in Oppression (4-6) – Facing a great crisis due to the oppression of his enemies, David stood in need of the Lord's intervention. Consider:

A. The Danger (4) – *My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword.* David faced a dangerous and vengeful enemy, who would use any means necessary to defeat him. These were not men of integrity or compassion, but those determined to destroy David by any means necessary. They shared a common goal – the defeat and destruction of David. (We too faced a determined adversary who will use any means necessary to bring about our defeat. He wants to destroy the life of every believer possible. We face a real threat by the enemy.)

B. The Determination (6) – *They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down: they have digged a pit before me, into the midst whereof they are fallen themselves. Selah.* David was well aware of the committed resolve of the enemy to bring about his defeat. They had set snares to catch

him, determined to defeat David, in an effort to prevent him from becoming king of Israel. Such attack had wearied David, causing grief within his soul.

- Again, we cannot underestimate the desire of Satan to destroy the lives of as many believers as possible. He loves to tempt us with the desires of the flesh, seeking to lure us into a snare that will bring reproach and defeat. We must be wise to his tactics, seeking strength and wisdom from the Lord.

C. The Dependence (5) – *Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; let thy glory be above all the earth.* In the midst of this great struggle, David realized his dependence upon the Lord. He knew apart from God's provision he would never survive. However, David also realized there was much more at stake than just his personal safety. David desired to guard the Lord's good name, seeking His glory above all else. These attacks were not just against David personally, but also against the plans and will of God. He desired the Lord to be exalted and glorified among men and those who sought to thwart His will suffer defeat.

- We too must always depend upon the Lord if we are to experience victory. We do not have the power to overcome within ourselves. Also, we need the awareness David possessed. The attacks we face are not brought solely against us. The enemy is not necessarily concerned with you and me; he seeks our defeat in an attempt to bring reproach on our Lord. Like David, we need to pray that the Lord would be exalted and glorified in every situation, even in those situations that are difficult for us to bear.

III. The Confidence of Salvation (7-11) – Finally David revealed his confidence in the Lord's ability to sustain him and save him from the attack of his enemies. Notice:

A. His Witness (7a) – *My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed.* Bear in mind, at this moment nothing had changed in David's situation. He remained in a cave, hiding from his enemies, well aware of the danger they posed. Yet, he remained confident in the Lord, having his heart fixed by faith in the Lord's ability to provide for his need. He refused to allow the circumstances of his situation dictate his existence. His faith in the Lord exceeded any fear of his enemies.

- This is much easier said than done, but it is essential if we are to overcome the difficulties we face. Like David, our hearts must be fixed upon the Lord, resting in His grace and provision while trusting Him to meet whatever needs we face. *Psalm 34:4 – I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.*

B. His Worship (7b-9) – I will sing and give praise. ^[8] Awake up, my glory; awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early. ^[9] I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations. We have to remember that David is surrounded by those who seek to destroy him, those who literally want to take his life, and yet he is committed to worshipping the Lord. In the midst of his despair and uncertainty, he made worship a priority. Actually, this should come as no surprise. If his heart was fixed on God as he said, worship would be a natural reaction. While the enemy raged around him, David rested in the Lord's grace and worshipped in the midst of adversity.

- This presents a great challenge for us today. I fear our worship is often dictated by emotion or circumstances. In reality, these should have no bearing on our worship. Regardless of the circumstances, God is still good and He is always worthy of our praise. We must be prepared to worship the Lord in the good times and the bad. Do you remember the words of Job? *Job 1:20-21 – Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped,* ^[21] *And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.*

C. His Wonder (10-11) – For thy mercy *is* great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds. ^[11] Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: *let thy glory be* above all the earth. Rather than being consumed with fear and dwelling on the difficulty of his situation, David stood in awe of the Lord. As he pondered the grace he had received and the provision of God, David was moved by the splendor of the Lord. His situation was dire, but it had not affected the sovereignty of God or altered His deity. The Lord had not changed because of David's situation. The Lord who delivered him from the bear, the lion, and Goliath, remained in control. David had nothing to fear; God remained in absolute authority.

- One of the enemy's favorite tactics is an attempt to divert our focus. If he can cause us to focus on our struggles instead of our Savior, he can defeat us. If, like David, we choose to focus on the sovereignty of God, resting in His provision and grace, we will not succumb to defeat. We have nothing to fear. Our Lord rose again triumphant, defeating every enemy we will face, including Satan. He ascended back to the right hand of the Father, where He intercedes for us daily. We are safe within His mighty hand. Nothing comes against us that He doesn't allow, and has complete control over. We can rest in His provision!

Conclusion: While David faced a difficult situation, he remained confident rather than suffering defeat from fear and doubt. If you are saved by grace, you can rest in the Lord. We are secure within the body of Christ, promised eternal life in Him. If there are needs in your life, bring them to Jesus, trusting in His provision and care!