

Faith in the midst of Fear

Psalm 11: 1-7

We have read another psalm of David. Many of the psalms were written of David at various times throughout his life. These thoughts were penned while he served in the court of Saul. What began as a time of great excitement, quickly became a season of great difficulty and despair for David. Saul became very jealous of David and sought many times to take his life.

On the surface, one would imagine there would have been little benefit for David during this season in life, but it proved to be very beneficial for him. During these trying times, David learned faith, wisdom, and patience. Rather than immediately fleeing in fear, seeking to resolve the issues on his own, David learned to trust the Lord and behave himself wisely before the court. Through great adversity, God was mightily working in the life of David, preparing him for the many tasks that lay ahead. It certainly wasn't an enjoyable season, but it benefited David.

Often we are forced to deal with situations and circumstances beyond our choosing. We each face difficulties and trials that are beyond our ability to handle. Our first instinct in those times is to flee and hide. However, if we can learn to patiently trust the Lord in faith, He will see us through and provide great wisdom for us. I want to consider the [assurances](#) David offers in this psalm as we think on: [Faith in the midst of Fear](#).

I. David Speaks of Adversity (1-3) – Here David speaks of the great adversity he faces in this particularly difficult season in life. Notice:

A. His Trust (1) – [In the LORD put I my trust: how say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain?](#)

David knew he had been anointed by Samuel, king of Israel, but things were not progressing toward his reign beginning any time soon. It would have been easy to have become discouraged and questioning the Lord, but instead David put his trust in God. He knew the Lord had called him to become king, and in His time, David would reign over Israel.

- Apparently some had encouraged David to flee as a bird into the mountains, organizing a troop of men to challenge Saul for the throne of Israel. Certainly he had developed a following, but David knew his path had been ordained of God and he chose to trust Him rather than seeking to work things out on his own. God had called him and God would provide!
- In seasons of great adversity we would do well to follow the wisdom of David. We must learn to trust the Lord at all times, in the good days and in the bad. Often we are tempted to take our circumstances in our own hands and seek to work out a solution. While this approach may

seem reasonable and even possible, we would do well to wait on the Lord, trusting Him. [Isaiah 26:3](#) – Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee.

B. His Turmoil (2) – [For, lo, the wicked bend *their* bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart.](#) David was honest and understanding of his difficulty. He knew his life was being sought by wicked men. They would do anything possible to rid him from the court. Saul's jealousy influenced other men to seek the life of David, presumably to protect Saul and the kingdom. In all of this, David kept things in perspective. He knew they sought his life because he was upright in heart. Their problem wasn't really personal with David, but the Lord he served and the determination he had to follow Him. God had anointed David to succeed Saul as king, and Saul wanted no part of that. He was infuriated that the kingdom would not pass on to his descendants.

- We cannot expect this world to understand or embrace our faith. We live in a world tainted by sin, rebelling against the very God who created us all. They desire to live as they please, without anyone or anything confronting their sinful ways. Those viewed as a hindrance to their deceptive and depraved ways are marked, and they will stop at nothing to silence their voices and remove their influence. Those who are determined to follow the Lord, serving Him according to His Word, will be targeted by society.

C. His Thoughts (3) – [If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?](#) This is an interesting thought posed by David, but we must not view it as resignation to defeat. The foundations speak of "*the set order of things.*" David knew he alone could do nothing about the depravity of the day. Saul and those who followed him had rejected the ways of God and sought their own agenda. David knew if Israel was to survive the attacks on the foundations, which God had ordained, the Lord would have to intervene.

- Although we are thousands of years removed from David, this scenario is playing out again before our very eyes. The very foundations of our society are being destroyed by those whose agenda is contrary to everything biblical and godly. We are facing increasing pressure to conform to the demands of society and abandon our biblical principles. We may feel there is little we can do, but we must remember that our Lord still reigns. He is not unaware of our situation and things are not beyond His control. In fact, He is sovereign over our present situation. When tempted to flee and hide, we must trust the Lord to equip us to face the challenges ahead! He is able and willing to meet our needs. [2 Tim.2:19](#) – [Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.](#)

II. David Speaks of Authority (4-7) – Although faced with great adversity, David knew he had nothing to fear. God was sovereign and maintained absolute authority. Consider:

A. The Position of the LORD (4a) – *The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven.*

Although Saul had departed from the ways of the Lord, he remained on the throne of Israel. David knew he would rise to the throne someday, but as of yet it hadn't happened. It would have been easy to have given up and abandoned God's will for his life, but he took courage in the Lord. The throne of Israel may not have been occupied by a godly man, but the throne of heaven was occupied of the LORD. His throne had never been challenged and it never would encounter a challenge. Throughout time and eternity God's throne had been, and would continue to be, occupied by the LORD Himself!

- We are in desperate need of leadership in America and around the world. Those in positions of authority, leading nations and people, have rejected the Lord and His ways. It may appear that things have spiraled out of control, but the Lord remains on His throne!

B. The Perception of the LORD (4b-5) – *his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.*^[5] *The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth.*

David knew God was well aware of his situation and the needs within Israel. His eyes beheld the works of men. He knew the heart of David and He also knew the heart of Saul and his followers. David knew he may have to face a season of difficulty and testing, but he was loved of the Lord. He also knew God hated the violence of the wicked and He would deal with them according to their ways.

- Most today never consider any accountability unto the Lord. They feel as if they have the privilege of living their lives according to their own desires and no one will ever question that or expect accountability. Many believe their lives are hidden, but God sees and He knows. We may have to face trials, but we are loved of the Lord and cared for by Him. The wicked will stand before God and give account of the lives they have lived. *Prov.15:3 – The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.*

C. The Punishment of the LORD (6) – *Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup.* David knew the wicked may have enjoyed a season of prominence and prosperity, but their evil ways had not gone unnoticed. Those who reject the Lord and deny His ways will face His wrath. Repentance was their only hope, and if they refused to seek the Lord, He would deal with them according to their ways.

- Often today it seems the wicked prosper while the righteous suffer, but there will be a reckoning day with the Lord. Those who choose to live as they please, ignoring the pleading of the Holy Spirit in salvation will one day face the Lord in righteous judgment. Those who die apart from Christ will be condemned in their sin and eternally separated from God to face the torments of the lake of fire.
- As I read these words of David, I was saddened. This will be a definite reality for untold millions, but such punishment is avoidable. Jesus Christ our Lord endured the righteous judgment of God for sin in His body as He hung upon the cross. He drank the cup of wrath in our place. No one has to stand before God accountable for sin if they will only come to Jesus by faith and be saved. He provided atonement for sin, reconciliation to God, and the means of escape. Jesus is the only way though. Apart from a personal relationship with Christ in salvation, one faces the wrath and eternal judgment of God.

D. The Prosperity in the LORD (7) – *For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright.* Wickedness may have been prevalent in David's day, but he knew the Lord was righteous and would uphold and defend those who followed Him. The wicked may have prospered, and even gained the upper hand from time to time, but they did not enjoy the Lord's favor. David knew the Lord was righteous and He would honor those who sought Him. God knew the struggles the upright faced and He would provide in their times of need.

- It is easy to become discouraged in our day. We look around and see the advance of evil. Most have no desire for the Lord and would prefer society experience no reference to Him. They want to silence our witness and marginalize our existence. Things will continue to get worse, but we can rest in the Lord. There is comfort and help in Him. We are loved of Him and He will continue to provide for us. Jesus died in our place, redeeming us unto Himself. He secured our eternal life as He rose triumphant over death. He is preparing a place in heaven for those who belong to Him. Life may be difficult, and it will continue to be so, but we have much more to anticipate than the struggles we endure here. There is a brighter day ahead for the children of God. We will spend eternity in heaven in the presence of our Lord!

Conclusion: I will admit that we are living in troubling times. Our religious liberties are being challenged and the moral landscape of our nation has radically changed. There are difficult days ahead, but we can face them with renewed confidence. There is no need to fear because our Lord is always near. We face nothing He doesn't allow and will not be asked to endure any trial that He isn't able to provide the wisdom and strength we need to make it through. We must not flee in fear, but stand firmly in our faith, trusting confidently in the Lord.

Are you struggling with life today? Are the burdens too heavy to bear? Come to Jesus and allow Him to ease your load. He can provide all you need to walk with Him in a hostile environment. If you are unsaved, having never received Christ as your Savior, I urge you to come to Him and be saved today. If the Lord is speaking to you, respond to His voice!