

Confidence in Uncertain Times

Psalm 62

Greetings. Our 8th Sunday the “church has left the building” and living rooms have become sanctuaries of the living God. **Dozens of notes and emails regarding the impact of Sundays:**

“...the highlight of our weeks! We are so very thankful that we have found New Hope, a church that is very much alive...”
(Testimony, NH Couple)

“I have only been watching for about one month but you have really touched my soul. I feel the Spirit of the Lord each week...Your ministry is so special and I am forever grateful...”

*“At the onset of the Covid-19 quarantine, I was watching online services...and one Sunday, I decided to watch New Hope’s...I was immediately blessed...and have been tuning in every Sunday...The messages have been **refreshingly ‘tailor-designed’** for this unprecedented time in which we are walking...When quarantine is lifted I am very much looking forward to visiting New Hope in person.”*

And we look forward to seeing you face-to-face & assembling together “in person.”

***When will our doors open? Good news: New Hope is beyond ready to reopen** at the first possible moment, with expanded opportunities to gather people in worship.

***But...**like all of you, we remain in a **season of waiting...**and watching God work in the process.

***Waiting...in uncertain times.** That describes the season of life David writes about in **Psalm 62.**

***A neighbor girl (about 6) came over and handed me a note this weekend that sums it up:**

“Trieweilers, we all know how hard this crisis has been. No family. No friends. It’s just horrible and nobody likes it. This is history! Soon this will all be over and we’ll all be happy and everything will open and we will be able to see each other again. Stay healthy. Love Makenna”

***This is our 7th message from Psalms of Confidence.**

***David is again facing a crisis. It’s hard. It’s horrible. He doesn’t like it.**

***But David again puts confidence in the Lord. He’s a Rock. Soon it will all be over.**

***Psalm 62 is yet another reminder from David about having Confidence in Uncertain Times**

1. God is our rock, (v.1-6)

*“1 For **God alone** my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. 2 **He alone** is **MY ROCK** and my salvation, my fortress...”*

*“5 For **God alone**, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. 6 **He only** is **MY ROCK** and my salvation, my fortress...”*

***When everything is shaken, David stands firm on the ONE FOUNDATION that is never shaken**

“God Alone!” (4x) David believes that with all options life, ONLY ONE immovable entity...God!

***Not income, not family, not girlfriends, not politics, not even unemployment income.**

*David uses **metaphors** to help picture how unshakeable God is (**ROCK, SALVATION, REFUGE, FORTRESS, MIGHTY ROCK**).

*IOW: God is immovable. Solid. Dependable. You can stand upon him with both feet.

*By now, maybe you've noticed this as a common theme. Every time David faces trouble or uncertainty, he calls to mind one thing that remains unshaken: "**God is a Refuge.**"

Ps. 46: "God is **our refuge** and strength; a very present help in trouble..."

Ps. 4: "For you alone, O Lord, make me **dwell in safety.**"

Ps. 27: "The Lord is **the refuge of my life**; of whom shall I be afraid."

Ps. 16: "Preserve me, O God, for in you I **take refuge.**"

Ps. 11: "In the Lord I **take refuge...**"

Ps. 57: "In the shadow of your wings I **will take refuge** till the storms of destruction pass"

*Someone said to me this week: "**These messages all seem to be the same theme.**" Exactly!

*New Hope – a **little history on this series**. I developed this series **6 years ago (Spring 2014)** and put it on the shelf because I believe this would be needed in a time of **national crisis**.

*That time is now! The most important truth the church needs to hear over and over again: "**No matter what we face, no matter how long we face it, God is a refuge.**"

*How do stand with confidence in times of uncertainty? **3 declarations**:

- "**I will wait in silence**" (v.1,5)
"For God alone my soul **waits in silence...**" (v.1)
"For God alone, O my soul, **wait in silence...**" (v.5)

*IOW: **Wait Patiently.** "In the **waiting rooms** of life, I will wait patiently on the Lord."

*We all need this reminder. David, who is "**a KING in waiting,**" models patience:

- **HE WAITS.** Chooses patience. He realizes He is not in control, of **events/future.**
- He waits **FOR GOD.** He surrenders the **timing of events to God.** **When/where/how**
- He waits for God **IN SILENCE.** Instead of trying to **force things by sheer effort or will power,** he closes his mouth and waits with quiet reverence, trusting God will act.

"For God alone O My soul, wait in silence..." I **have memorized and quoted these verses during times of personal crisis...**it has guarded my tongue, and been a simple act of trust and devotion.

*Perhaps there is nothing more difficult for a man or woman of God to do in times of uncertainty than this: **Wait for God in silence.**

***One thing we all have in common right now...**we are all at a **national red light.**

*We "wait **at home.**" We wait for the governor. We wait for the President. We wait for banks. We wait for businesses. We wait for stimulus. We wait....

*And think of it. Why do we wait? Because we have **ZERO CONTROL** of timing & events.

*Wait Patiently: **What is one thing you are waiting for? Wait patiently on Him, with hope.**

- **“My hope is from Him!” (v.3-5)**

“3 How long will all of you attack a man to batter him, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence? 4 They only plan to thrust him down from his high position. They take pleasure in falsehood. They bless with their mouths, but inwardly they curse. (v.3-4)

*Sounds like David has watched the evening news of people/problems in our own nation.

*This is why David runs to God for refuge. People are causing problems.

*There is a **personal/political storm brewing** that threatens to topple the nation.

*People are threatening to impeach him from office. Lies are being told. It’s all a power play. And if it continues, David might be headed for unemployment lines.

*But David turns his **attention and his hope to the Rock:**

v.5: *“For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for **my hope is from Him.**”*

*One translation: **“My EXPECTATION is from him.”** We know God will act.

*IOW: **Submit Completely. He can walk 1 of 2 paths: Faith or Fear.** David chooses Faith.

One New Hope Couple wrote: *“With all that is going on in the world right now, [Sunday sermons] have been **extra encouraging and uplifting!** Thank you for following God’s plan and sharing the Good News during these trying times.”* **(Testimony, NH Couple)**

*New Hope, we are a **church where hope happens!** **“Our hope is from Him!”**

*When you are **upset at politicians, remember...**Our hope is from Him!

*When you see people **crafting lies, remember...**Our hope is from Him!

*When it feels like our **nation is crumbling, remember...**Our hope is from Him!

- **“I shall not be shaken!” (v.2,6)**

*“He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; **I shall not be greatly shaken.**” (v.2)*

*“He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; **I shall not be shaken.**” (v.6)*

*IOW: **Trust Immovably.** David remains unshaken b/c his faith is in God.

*We sing it: **“On Christ the solid Rock I stand...all other ground is sinking sand.”**

*David doesn’t just sing this...he believes it! He believes...**God is a Rock; the Future is secure; Heaven oversees Hell; even kings are pawns** in the hands of the Living God.

David looks around at all being shaken, but remains confident: “everything is going to be OK.”

One New Hope man wrote: *“Your weekly messages, whether delivered while we’re seated on church pews or living room couches...help reassure us that **everything is going to be OK...that even when we hit turbulence, clearer air is coming.**”* **(Testimony, New Hope member)**

2. ...and we can trust Him, (v.7-10)

*What is the one thing that gives you **stability in life**?

*What is the one thing that gives you **security in life**?

*I know the right answer is "Jesus," but really...what is 1 thing you rely on...lean on?

*David calls us to action: **God is firm...Nothing else is.**

• **God is firm.** (v.7-8)

*"7 On God rests my **salvation** and my **glory**; my **mighty rock**, my **refuge** is God. 8 **Trust in him** at all times, O people; **pour out your heart** before him; God is a **refuge** for us."*

*David calls us to "Trust in God." Rely on Him. Pour out your heart to Him.

*Take your cares/concerns/fears/worries...and **pour out your heart to Him. Pray.**

***Prayer = a declaration of dependence upon God. It says: "I trust in you."**

• **Nothing else is.** (v.9-10)

*"9 Those of **low estate** are but a breath; those of **high estate** are a delusion; in the balances they go up; they are **together** lighter than a breath. 10 Put **no trust** in extortion; set **no vain hopes** on robbery; if riches increase, **set not your heart** on them.*

*Whoa. What a great perspective about how uncertain things in life are, like **Health and Wealth**

***Health** = David reminds us all (whether **LOW ESTATE/HIGH ESTATE...Big Shots/No Names**):

***Our Life** is a breath. Lighter than a breath. A Mist. Vapor. Hangs in the balance.

***Wealth** = David reminds us all (**Wealthy/Poor, Employed/Unemployed**); Don's trust in wealth

***Do you have money? Take out a 1, 5, 10, 20, 100.** Flip it over.

"IN GOD WE TRUST." Is that true of you?

*David reminds people to trust in the Lord.

*If you **increase in wealth LEGALLY** (hard work, inheritance, stimulus) or **ILLEGALLY (extortion, robbery, theft)**, David has one warning: **"set not your heart on them."**

***IOW: Don't rely on it. Don't put your confidence in it. It can be gone in a second.**

***N.H.** this is a **new month**, and it calls for a new way to live.

*If you lived **APRIL** with a sense of **FEAR**, then **turn the page and live May with FAITH:**

*"We are SO READY to get back to life!...I'm **tired of living in fear** and am now **leaving my safety**, and yes **my sanity, in God's hands**. Your "confidence messages" have been such a blessing. I feel God's promises in your words and in my daily life."
(Testimony, NH couple)*

*Our trust is in the Lord. Not **wealth, health, government stimulus, or unemployment.**

3. ...because He is in charge. (v.11-12)

*11 Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that **power** belongs to God, 12 and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast **love**. For you will render to a man according to his work.*

***Once...Twice:** This is a **Life Lesson** that God has declared so often that David lives by it.

***That Life Lesson: God is in charge. He's got this.**

- **ALL Powerful.**

*All power is in his hands. Nothing is impossible with God. His arm is not short.

- **ALL Loving.**

*All love is in his heart. He can be trusted to work for good.

*No matter what we face, or how long we face it, the very core of the Christian foundation:

***God is powerful. God is good. We can trust Him.**

Action Steps:

- Give up control...you don't have it anyway.
- Wait in Silence.
- "In God we Trust."