

## PSALM 22 | CRUCIFORMED SONG

2 Thessalonians 3:5 “may the Lord direct your hearts to God’s love and Christ’s endurance.”

	Description	Word	Reference
1	Forgiveness	“Father, forgive them; because they do not know what they are doing.”	Luke 23:34
2	Salvation	“Today you will be with me in paradise”	Luke 23:43
3	Relationship	“Woman, here is your son....Here is your mother”	John 19:26-27
4	Abandonment	“My God, My God, why have you abandoned me?”	Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34 (Psalm 22:1)
5	Distress	“I am thirsty”	John 19:28; (Psalm 69:21)
6	Triumph	“It is finished”	John 19:30
7	Reunion	“Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit”	Luke 23:46 (Psalm 31:5)

Jesus in distress sang songs of lament. He overflowed Scripture on the cross.

How do we live faithfully when doubts arise, when our experience seems in conflict with what we believe?

Consider what we fundamentally believe about God. 2 Thessalonians 2:15 “Stand firm and hold to the traditions you were taught.”

### The Apostles’ creed

*I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.*

*I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our  
Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,*

*he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the  
dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.*

**Confess — Things we believe.** Express things about God that you know to be true.

Psalm 22 contrasts experience with faith.

### **A. David’s Experience.**

The heart in distress asks why and wants answers.

- He feels abandoned, forsaken, destitute, failed (v1).
  - He cries in the day and at night (v2)
  - He feels that God is silent and unresponsive (v2)
  - He feels God is distant.
  - He feels inhuman. (v6)
  - He is shamed and mocked. (v6)
  - He experiences isolation and scorn (v6-8). He is exposed.
  - His crying out is scandalous (v7-8)
  - He feels alone. (v11)
  - He feels surrounded. (v12-13, 16-18)
  - He feels the physical and psychological effects of this prolonged distress and fear (v14-15, 17):
- God plays some role in this. He is active in the least. This further weighs heavy. (v15)

Consider how our experience and our circumstances make belief in the truths that we affirm this morning difficult.

**Confess – Things we struggle with.**

- How do your circumstances make belief in these truths difficult?
- How does your experience seem at odds with what you believe?
- How do you struggle with unbelief in these beliefs?
- How do you cry out, “I believe, help my unbelief”?

**B. David’s faith**

In contrast to his circumstances, David rehearses what he believes, the evidence of God’s past faithfulness.

God’s faithfulness is evidenced through the history of his people. (V4-5)

We summarize and condense Bible stories and then expect God to work in these summarized ways. In contrast to these summaries our circumstances seem prolonged and the suffering incomparable.

God’s faithfulness is evidenced through David’s Personal History and Past Experience (V9-10)

**Remember**

What are particular stories of God’s faithfulness that give you hope?  
How has God sustained you, delivered you in the past?

This tension of experience and faith can be summarized in a later crying out “Lord, I believe, help my unbelief!”

**C. David’s Response: How does David act in this tension? How does this Psalm resolve?**

**CRY OUT.** Casting our cares upon him, because he cares for us. This is what faith looks like.

**RESOLVE.** A continued act of will on the basis of the “assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

We will cry out in hope and in faith. Not despite historical facts and the sound basis for faith, but in contrast to our circumstances and our experience.

*I will believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.*

*he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the  
dead.*

*I will believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son,  
our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;*

*I will believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.*

God we believe. Help our unbelief.

**REASON to RESOLVE.** (v22-31)

*V 24 For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him.*

The response of faith, the willful resolve to cry out and trust in God’s deliverance WILL add to the record of God’s faithful, steadfast love and be another chapter to be rehearsed in redemptive history.

- The ultimate example of this: On the cross Jesus pleads covenant. His lament will turn to the redemption and praise of nations.

*Hebrews 2:10-12 (Psalm 22:22) For in bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was entirely appropriate that God—for whom and through whom all things exist—should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying:  
I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters;  
I will sing hymns to you in the congregation.*

*Hebrews 10:23-25 Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since he who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as we see the day approaching.*