

Awaken the Dawn

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Psalm 57

- “I am surrounded by fierce lions who greedily devour human prey whose teeth pierce like spears and arrows, and whose tongues cut like swords. Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens! May your glory shine over all the earth. My enemies have set a trap for me. I am weary from distress. They have dug a deep pit in my path, but they themselves have fallen into it. *Interlude* My heart is confident in you, O God; my heart is confident. No wonder I can sing your praises! Wake up, my heart! Wake up, O lyre and harp! I will wake the dawn with my song. I will thank you, Lord, among all the people. I will sing your praises among the nations. For your unfailing love is as high as the heavens. Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens. May your glory shine over all the earth.” - Psalm 57:4-11 NLT
- When we are pursuing the purposes of God in our community and life, the enemy wants nothing more than to stop those purposes from being accomplished.
 - This was the case with David in this Psalm.
 - David’s pursuit of God’s purposes in the nation of Israel and His own life led to being pursued by the enemy.
 - David was hiding from King Saul in a cave. He felt the weight and the darkness of the moment He was in, and out of it began to sing this song to God.
- There are a few things that I believe we can glean from David out of this Psalm that can help us as we experience attacks in our pursuit of the purposes of God:
 - I. Faith and acknowledgement of the difficulty of the situation are both present in this Psalm.
 - A. “... I am weary from distress ...” - Psalm 57:6b NLT
 1. David didn’t pretend like He wasn’t in a struggle.
 - a) He acknowledged the attack and his own feelings of weakness.

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- b) Acknowledgment of His own weakness did not weaken his faith, trust or confidence in God.
- B. When we are experiencing attack, God doesn't want us to fake it until we make it.
- 1. We can be real with God.
 - a) We can say to Him what we are feeling and experiencing.
 - b) We can do this even more so than David because we have Jesus, who knows and experienced the very things we go through!
 - c) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. - Hebrews 4:15-16 NIV
 - 2. The most important piece to this, is that we don't allow the reality of what we are going through to keep us from going to God.
- II. In his weakness, David knew where to place his confidence.
- A. "My heart is confident in you, O God; my heart is confident, no wonder I can sing your praises!" - Psalm 57:7
- 1. David didn't just talk about His situation, he inclined his heart toward God.
 - a) He knew that even in the midst of one of the darkest moments of his life, He could trust in God.
 - b) He was able to praise God, not because He was already out of the situation, but because of his confidence in who God is.
 - 2. We can engage with God in this way as well.
 - a) Our confidence doesn't come from never experiencing difficulty or attack. It comes from the truth of who God is.
 - b) Our praise isn't dependent on the circumstance, it is based in the truth of who God is.
 - c) But, a lot of times the question we have is how do we do this? How do we press out of the feelings of distress and difficulty into praise? What do

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we do when we feel like the darkness is surrounding us, and there doesn't seem to be any hope in sight?

(1) We can do what David did!

III. David awakened himself, in order to awaken the dawn.

A. "Wake up, my heart! Wake up, O lyre and harp! I will wake the dawn with my song." - Psalm 57:8 NLT

1. The imagery here in the Hebrew language is incredibly beautiful!

a) The idea that David is trying to communicate is that when the darkness is all around him, he will awaken the light.

b) Through his praise and through his worship of God, he would cause the light of God to shine.

2. David was saying that he was going to take the first step.

a) Even though everything around him was falling apart, he was going to open his mouth and praise God!

B. We need to be like David and take the first step.

1. We need to speak to our hearts.

2. We need to realize that we can cause the first break of light to burst forth with our praise!