

## **Trusting While Wanting and Waiting**

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Shaped by the Psalms / Psalm 62

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### **Introduction:**

What do you place your trust in? Is it your job or wealth? Your spouse? Your parents or friends? As we continue in our “Shaped by the Psalms” series, we come to Psalms of Confidence or Trust. These psalms express an assurance of the ability to trust in God to provide and protect, and you can recognize them by their declarations of trust while facing some kind of opposition, their use of terms related to hope, and proclamation of God as a refuge for either the psalmist or God’s people. Some of these psalms, like Psalm 11, speak as an individual, where others, like Psalm 125, speak of the community. Familiar Psalms of Trust are Psalm 16 and 23. Their language and consistent trust in God’s power and character, in the midst of great opposition, points our hearts to have that same kind of trust in any thing we face in this life. Our psalm for today is Psalm 62, which employs both a strong expression of personal trust, and a call for others to trust God. The title of Psalm 62, “To the choirmaster: according to Jeduthun. A Psalm of David,” points to its intended use by the conductor of the Temple choir and Jeduthun may be the same person mentioned in 1 Chronicles 16:41 as one of David’s chief musicians. Its structure is hard to pinpoint. Some suggest it should be divided into 3 stanzas centered around the use of the word Selah at the end of verse 4 and 8, which likely indicates a musical pause. However, I have become persuaded with others that verse 7 is the central line, with two eight-line stanzas in the original language coming before and after, enforcing its main point (Mark D. Futato, “The Book of Psalms,” in Cornerstone Biblical Commentary, 211). Because of this, we will consider the point of verse 7, then examine the stanzas before and after, and conclude our time together consider how Psalm 62 helps us to learn how to trust in God while wanting and waiting. Consider the main point found in verse 7, that,

### **We Can, and Should Trust in God Alone**

Verse 7 is packed full of powerful and pointed language, coming at the end of a repeated unit of thought, and proceeding an imperative call for others. Look at verse 7 with me, “On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God.” Notice first how the beginning and the end of this verse focus squarely on God. God is the central focus of David’s heart and mind. Then, note the use of the possessive pronoun connected to each statement. Finally, focus in on the first phrase “On God rests.” This is the foundation. His salvation and his glory depend on God. This is because God is his rock to stand on, and a refuge to hide in. Five times before this and once after, the word translated “alone, only, and but” is used. Four occurrences speak of God alone in a positive sense, and two of man in a negative. God alone brings hope, salvation and security. Man only seeks to tear him down and is but a breath. Those comparisons circle around this central statement showing that everything rests and depends on God alone. Church, as we notice how this psalm is meant to be sung, beginning with a personal expression of trust, and ending with a communal call of trust, we can see its thrust is to help us search our hearts for where our trust truly lies. This central statement points to both how David confidently places his trust in God alone, and why he calls us to do the same. Let’s now go back to examine what verses 1-6 tell us about how he got to this declaration, revealing how,

### **God’s Promised Care and Protection Strengthens a Weakened Trust**

Verses 1-6 can be divided up into three sections, with the first and third mirroring each other almost exactly, and the middle holding the opposition David is facing. Look back at verses 1-2, “For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation. He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be greatly shaken.” David begins with a declaration of patience and understanding. The Hebrew for “silence” refers to a calm stillness, not a verbal silence. He waits on God with a quiet sense of peace, yield all his concerns to the Lord, knowing that God is the one to provide help and deliverance. He then speaks of God as his rock, salvation, and fortress. Rock and fortress are both imagery of safety and protection.

A rock is used often in the scriptures as a place where one can defend themselves. A fortress is a high place built as a defense against enemies, and salvation speaks of a point of help and deliverance. These terms point to safety, security, and deliverance. Pay attention to the end of verse 2, as David concludes, “I shall not be greatly shaken.” At this point, David’s trust is not being greatly shaken. He might be altered a little but knows the Lord will keep fear and anxiety from shaking him too greatly. We then discover what led to these declarations as he describes his opposition in verses 3-4, “How long will all of you attack a man to batter him, like a leaning wall, a tottering fence? 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.” David is up against men who are attacking him. The imagery points to them seeking to beat, bruise or demolish him like he is a wall about to topple over. I remember replacing fences when I was younger and my favorite part being taking down the old fence. There was nothing like taking a sledgehammer and knocking down the old slats and posts. That was the fun part, putting back up was tedious and didn’t excite me as much. That is the idea here, which connects with verse 4 showing how the plan of these people to remove David from his high position, speaking in lies and falsely flattering him, while inwardly cursing him. The turmoil that surrounds him is coming in such a degree that his cry is asking how long they will continue. You can feel the angst in his heart. Yet, as he declared a calmness in waiting on God in verses 1-2, he returns to those thoughts with a few slight changes. Pay attention to the similarities and differences of verses 5-6 with verses 1-2, “For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation, my fortress; I shall not be shaken.” The first thing to notice is the shift from declaring something to speaking to himself, saying, “O my soul, wait in silence.” The line reads as a command to his soul to wait on God. Next, the reason moves from “salvation” to “hope,” showing that he understands God will not only provide deliverance from the opposition but provides hope inside of it. This helps us to realize the trails haven’t lifted for David yet. Yet, note the final difference at the the end of verse 6. David now says, “I shall not be shaken.” His trust has been strengthened to the point where he isn’t just confident that he won’t shaken greatly but knows he won’t be shaken at all. What grew his confidence and trust? The answer falls in the twice repeated recognition that God is his rock, salvation, and fortress. God’s promised care and protection strengthened his weakened trust, bringing it to the point of the confidence of verse 7, “On God rests my salvation and my glory; my mighty rock, my refuge is God.” Church, in your times of distress, speak to your souls. Remind yourself that hope is from God, and you will not be shaken. Wait in silence on the one who has promised to care and protect all who come to Him. Look next at the final eight-line stanza, in verses 8-12, to see how,

### **God’s Declared Power and Love Anchors a Steady Trust**

Verse 8 moves from speaking to himself to directing others to respond. Notice the shift in verse 8, “Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.” Two imperatives are followed by a beautiful statement. Trust God at all times and pour out your heart before Him. Church, hear the call of these two imperatives. Don’t let a moment go by where you don’t trust in God and know that you can lay out the depths of your heart to Him. The imagery of pouring out your heart is that our troubles, pain, concerns, feelings, and desires stream out of us like water before God. We can trust in God and share our burdens with Him because “God is a refuge for us.” God is not only the refuge for David, but for us, for all who trust in His salvation. God promises to be a place of safety and security for any and all who come to Him in faith. The testimony of Scripture reveals that this faith is not only knowing there is a God who cares for His people, but that He sent His only son, Jesus Christ, to bear the punishment due for your sin. That His death and resurrection saves you from the wrath of God to come, making Him your refuge as you are reconciled with God. The gospel of Jesus Christ tells us that all who come to Jesus in that kind of faith are found in Christ and held secure by the power of His Spirit from all the enemies attacks. Verses 9-12 then provide the reasons to trust in God and Him alone to be a refuge for us. Notice, first the declaration of verses 9-10 in relation to verse 8, “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.

Put no trust in extortion; set no vain hopes on robbery; if riches increase, set not your heart on them.” After calling for trust in God, David shows why we shouldn’t place our trust in people or possessions. When he speaks of those in low estate or high estate, he captures all of humanity, placing them in the same position. It doesn’t matter what position they are in, they are “but a breath... a delusion... together lighter than a breath.” The word translate twice as “breath” is the same word translated vanity in Ecclesiastes. The point is that no person can be counted on like God can. This is a necessary reminder because we are tempted to place our trust in what man can do for us in many ways. As Psalm 20:7 says, “Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.” After showing our trust shouldn’t be in people, he turns his attention to wealth. His main point is summed up at the end of verse 10, don’t set your heart on riches. The phrases before speak of various ways riches are gained through power, deception, or them simply increasing. The point is, don’t trust in the extortion or robbery to gain wealth, and even if riches increase, don’t set your heart on it. David’s charge comes from what he has clearly heard from God. Look at verses 11-12, “Once God has spoken; twice have I heard this: that power belongs to God, and that to you, O Lord, belongs steadfast love. For you will render to a man according to his work.” The idea isn’t that David has only hear these things twice, but he uses this numerical formula to draw attention to the dual truths he is about to disclose. First, “that power belongs to God.” We look around us and see what are seemingly powerful things all the time: rulers, governments, armies, wealth and machinery. We may even be spiritually aware of the power and schemes of our enemy, but the truth we need to remember is that power belongs to God. All the power we see pales in comparison to our God and as we saw last week, “The Lord Reigns.” Second, David reminds us that to God “belongs steadfast love.” Just like we saw last week, power is combined with character, helping us to see the might and majesty of God. Note the subtle shift in speaking now to the Lord. David knows this characteristic intimately and shows a resolution to commit all his ways to God, anchoring a steady trust in the revealed character of God, as one who has covenant keeping love. This love encompasses God’s mercy and loving kindness towards His people. And this kind of love belongs to God alone because He is the only one with the power to perfectly keep it, in spite of any opposition His people face. This is why David knows that God’s justice will be executed at some point in verse 12, saying, “For you will render to a man according to his work.” God knows what people have done. He knows those who have resorted to extortion and robbery, placing their trust in riches and wealth. He knows those who speak lies and falsely flatter others, when they inwardly curse others. And he knows those who trust in Him alone as their refuge. Church, God will reward those who trust in Him alone and walk in the good works He has prepared, and He will justly judge those who deny and reject His goodness, walk in darkness, and carry out evil deeds. Psalm 62 reminds us of God’s power and steadfast love to anchor our hearts in steady trust of Him at all times. As we come to the practical ways to let this psalm shape our thoughts prayers and actions, let me suggest three things you can do to build a firm trust in God alone from this psalm. First,

### **1) Remind Yourself of God’s Revealed Character**

Verses 11-12 of this psalm proclaim what God has revealed through His spoken word regarding His character, namely His power and steadfast love. Yet, David also speaks of other ways throughout this psalm of the revealed character of God, calling him his rock, fortress, and our refuge. God has revealed his character to us all throughout the Bible to help us know and trust Him. The reminder in this psalm is to quiet your heart and soul in the midst of turmoil and remind yourself of God’s revealed character. Let the truths of who He is be the steady anchor for your souls, like David did. The second is to,

### **2) Pour Out Your Heart to God**

When you need to build a firm trust in God alone don’t forget that part of building that, according to verse 8, is to “pour out your heart before him.” As I said earlier, this paints the imagery of all our troubles, pain, concerns, feelings, and desires as streaming out of us like water before God. Church, you never have to couch your feelings or thoughts before God.

He already knows the depths of them, and He is a refuge for you in them. You can be vulnerable with Him and speak honestly with Him. Next week, we will consider a Psalm of Lament that shows us how to pour out our hearts to God. Share your burdens with Him to building a firm trust in Him alone. Finally,

### **3) Place Your Hope in God Alone**

The example of David, and his charge to all who will hear Psalm 62 is to put no trust, or hope, in anything else, but rest everything in God's hands. I think Mark Futato is spot on in his commentary where he suggest this Psalm comes against the idol of misplaced trust. Listen to his comments, "The idol of misplaced trust is often hard to detect. We think we are trusting God to supply our needs until we are faced with the possibility of losing our job. The anxiety we then experience indicates the presence of a hidden idol, misplaced trust in our job as the source of our security. We think we are depending on God's approval for our sense of personal well-being, until we come under severe criticism by others. The pain we then feel indicates the presence of an idol, misplaced dependence on the opinion of others as the source of our sense of self-worth. Such painful experiences are in reality a true blessing, as they give us the opportunity to rid our lives of idols and to grow in dependence on God alone for life" (Mark D. Futato, "The Book of Psalms," in Cornerstone Biblical Commentary, 212). Search your heart for areas of misplaced trust and let this Psalm move your heart to place your hope in God alone.

Conclusion:

As the worship team is coming to lead us in an extended time of reflection and response to these truths, take this time to search your heart to see if you have this kind of trust in God while wanting and waiting. Are you trusting in Christ as your savior, Lord, and treasure? Does the gospel cause your heart to sing? Does it comfort you and provide peace for your weary soul? Does it lead you to wait in silence because your hope is in Christ? If not, seek forgiveness for your sin today by trusting in the death and resurrection of Jesus. Pray for mercy and receive the steadfast love of God. Have you placed your trust in other things to satisfy you? Maybe it is riches, or a person. Maybe it is your job or that way others perceive you. If your heart is placing its trust in anything other than God, that may be an idol of your heart. Confess that to God and ask Him to strengthen your trust in Him alone. Are in the midst of some kind of trial today, wondering how long it will continue? Speak to your soul and call on it to wait on God. Know that He is your rock and refuge. Pour out your heart to Him and find refreshment for your soul today. As always, you are welcome to stand and sing during this time whenever you are lead to or sit and reflect as long as you need. You can also come down and kneel before the Lord as you cry out to him or receive prayer from our prayer team who you will find worshipping on the front rows or at the bottom of the stairs in the back.

Pray with me as we lean into God's grace together.