



**Faith in the Hard Places
God is Faithful, Yesterday, Today and Forever
Psalm 31**

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We are looking at Psalm 31 and we will see several things in this psalm to include verse 5, which Jesus quoted while He was on the cross. It is a psalm written by someone needing help, in fact David, as he wrote this was under rather extreme pressure from Saul and was also learning how quickly people will turn against you even when you are doing what the Lord wants you to do. Treachery and slander are tough lessons to learn how to deal with since they seem so personal.



This psalm was written as a result of the events we read about in 1 Samuel 23. To understand the mindset and what he is writing about, let's first take a look at the background leading to this psalm.

1 Samuel 23:1–14

"Now they told David, "Behold, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are robbing the threshing floors." Therefore David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" And the LORD said to David, "Go and attack the Philistines and save Keilah." But David's men said to him, "Behold, we are afraid here in Judah; how much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?" Then David inquired of the LORD again. And the LORD answered him, "Arise, go down to Keilah, for I will give the Philistines into your hand." And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines and brought away their livestock and struck them with a great blow. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah. When Abiathar the son of Ahimelech had fled to David to Keilah, he had come down with an ephod in his hand. Now it was told Saul that David had come to Keilah. And Saul said, "God has given him into my hand, for he has shut himself in by entering a town that has gates and bars." And Saul summoned all the people to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men. David knew that Saul was plotting harm against him. And he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here." Then David said, "O LORD, the God of Israel, your servant has surely heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah, to destroy the city on my account. Will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O LORD, the God of Israel, please tell your servant." And the LORD said, "He will come down." Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the LORD said, "They will surrender you." Then David and his men, who were about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. When Saul was told that David had escaped from Keilah, he gave up the expedition. And David remained in the strongholds in the wilderness, in the hill country of the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not give him into his hand." (ESV)

David is on the run from Saul, and the Lord guides him to deliver Keilah. Those with him were not too keen on doing this so David asked the Lord twice and twice the Lord said to go. When God calls, He also enables and provides, and we clearly see that here.

But Saul continues with his conspiracy to destroy David and plans to besiege the city of Keilah.

David asks if the people of the city will surrender him up to protect themselves and indeed, the Lord tells him, they will do so. So, David and his men leave. "Since David was not physically ill at the time, the afflictions spoken of are to be thought of as being the distress of mind which seemed to break his physical strength and shorten his days. Such an interpretation is in keeping with the facts of the case." (Leupold 1959, 258)

Once again, a psalm, a prayer, written by David who is in distress early in his run from King Saul.

Let's read through the psalm first, and then I'll unpack it for us. If you have ever heard anyone teach that you are not to pray the problem, just the promise, that teaching does not comport with the scriptures. David is in desperation again and we will hear it as he prays.

David has a personal relationship with YAHWEH, and it is reflected in how he prays. He holds nothing back and tells God exactly what is on his heart.

Psalm 31

"For the music director. A Psalm of David. In You, LORD, I have taken refuge; Let me never be put to shame; In Your righteousness rescue me. Incline Your ear to me, rescue me quickly; Be a rock of strength for me, A stronghold to save me. For You are my rock and my fortress; For the sake of



Your name You will lead me and guide me. You will pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me, For You are my strength. Into Your hand I entrust my spirit; You have redeemed me, LORD, God of truth. I hate those who devote themselves to worthless idols, But I trust in the LORD. I will rejoice and be glad in Your faithfulness, Because You have seen my misery; You have known the troubles of my soul, And You have not handed me over to the enemy; You have set my feet in a large place. Be gracious to me, LORD, for I am in distress; My eye is wasted away from grief, my soul and my body too. For my life is spent with sorrow And my years with sighing; My strength has failed because of my guilt, And my body has wasted away. Because of all my adversaries, I have become a disgrace, Especially to my neighbors, And an object of dread to my acquaintances; Those who see me in the street flee from me. I am forgotten like a dead person, out of mind; I am like a broken vessel. For I have heard the slander of many, Terror is on every side; While they took counsel together against me, They schemed to take away my life. But as for me, I trust in You, LORD, I say, "You are my God." My times are in Your hand; Rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from those who persecute me. Make Your face shine upon Your servant; Save me in Your faithfulness. Let me not be put to shame, LORD, for I call upon You; Let the wicked be put to shame, let them be silent in Sheol. Let the lying lips be speechless, Which speak arrogantly against the righteous With pride and contempt. How great is Your goodness, Which You have stored up for those who fear You, Which You have performed for those who take refuge in You, Before the sons of mankind! You hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the conspiracies of mankind; You keep them secretly in a shelter from the strife of tongues. Blessed be the LORD, For He has shown His marvelous faithfulness to me in a besieged city. As for me, I said in my alarm, "I am cut off from Your eyes"; Nevertheless You heard the sound of my pleadings When I called to You for help. Love the LORD, all His godly ones! The LORD watches over the faithful But fully repays the one who acts arrogantly. Be strong and let your heart take courage, All you who wait for the LORD." (NASB 2020)

With all that is going on in David's life at this point, the slander, the attempts on his life, having to be on the run, even those whom he saves are unwilling to protect him or care for him, at this point, he is truly an outcast from the Kingdom, officially an enemy of the state, and he hasn't done anything except be faithful to the Lord.

With everything going on in his life, What does he say?

Psalms 31:1

"In You, LORD, I have taken refuge; Let me never be put to shame; In Your righteousness rescue me." (NASB 2020)

David is in need of a safe place, and he has turned to the only one he truly knows is safe, the Lord.

Where do we turn when we are up against the wall? Things seem to just pile up one on top of another and we too begin to feel overwhelmed, just like David. We too should look to our refuge, the Lord.

Many times, we are in distress because we have not taken advantage of the peace only, He can provide when we take Him up on His promise to protect us and care for us. Why would we worry? This is where David is turning.

Yes, God loves David and yes, He loves His kids, that would be you and me.

The way David puts it though is he asks God for refuge and rescue because the character of God is righteousness, and it His name David is interested in upholding. He is asking on that basis.



Psalm 31:2–3

“Incline Your ear to me, rescue me quickly; Be a rock of strength for me, A stronghold to save me. For You are my rock and my fortress; **For the sake of Your name You will lead me and guide me.**” (NASB 2020)

David teaches us something about prayer here. He is praying with an awareness of what it is God has done for him in the past which provides a basis for what he is needing now, protection.

He has been, as evidenced from the multiple times he sought the Lord in 1 Samuel 23, sought to be in the will of God. He wants to be where God leads him to be and right now, he is struggling with some of that because of the enemy who is standing up against him.

He has asked the Lord for refuge, not to be put to shame, and rescue. He asks God to listen to him, it is okay to pray that when you feel like He is a million miles away, He isn't. He is right there in us as He promised to be in the person of the Holy Spirit and He will never leave us. He promised.

Hebrews 13:5

“Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”” (ESV)

Jesus told His disciples He had no intent of leaving them alone as He promised the following leading to His promise of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:18

“No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you.” (NLT)

David knows that God will not leave him. Hebrews 13:5, I have found, is one of the most comforting promises in the Bible. He is telling us so that we all know what David knows, “I will never leave you or forsake you.”

But look at all who have left David, some have done so in treachery, others would like to be with him but can't right now. Saul left David and is actively trying to kill him, Jonathan his best friend had to leave him, so did his wife Michal. The people he just protected and saved from the sword of the Philistines; they were prepared to give him up to Saul to be killed. But David was looking for direction from the Lord.

He is doing this because the Lord is his rock, He is his fortress and David knows that as God has led him in the past, he is doing so in the present and will continue to do so in the future.

When we come to Christ, we have realized that we cannot save ourselves from our sin problem and many of us have also learned we cannot save ourselves from some of the predicaments we have placed ourselves into as well. He has saved us and extracted us out of the low places we were enjoying before coming to Him and He has placed in safety. We have made Jesus Lord because He created us, solved our sin problem and promises to care for us.

“We need to pray with our hearts what we know in our minds. We know many things about God from the Bible. When we pray with faith, we ask God to be these things to us personally. Do we believe that God is our strength? By faith we ask God to be our strength when we are weak. Do we believe that God works everything together for our good? Then as we pray to Him, we understand that everything He does is for our good. (Johnston 2015, 319)



We have chosen, along with David, for God to be our protector. I don't know about you, but when I meditate on that simple fact, God is my protector, both now and for ever, I find it difficult to worry about stuff going on around me.

For David, that knowledge encourages him.

Psalm 31:4–5

"You will pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me, For You are my strength. Into Your hand I entrust my spirit; You have redeemed me, LORD, God of truth." (NASB 2020)

He asked will the people give him up, the Lord said yes, He pulled David out of the net.

David recognizes that as a follower of YAHWEH, he is indeed a dying man who has placed all that he is at the disposal of the Father. Jesus will quote this verse from the cross.

Luke 23:46

"Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last." (ESV)

But this is not a verse for you and I to memorize and then state at the moment we go home to the Lord. This is something we can do right now as followers of Jesus Christ.

If we truly do indeed trust Him with our eternity, we can also trust Him with our day to day and our minute to minute. He is the one who has redeemed us, doing so on the cross, giving us everything. He is indeed worthy of our trust now and forever. When we entrust our Spirit to Him right now, we no longer have to worry pretty much about anything. Why?

Psalm 49:15

"But God will rescue me from the power of death." (CEV)

David committed his life, and his spirit "into the hand of the Lord his Redeemer, where he knew it would be safe, and out of whose hands none can pluck; or this he might say, as apprehensive of immediate death, through the danger he was in; and therefore commits his spirit into the hands of God, to whom he knew it belonged, and to whom it returns at death, and dies not with the body, but exists in a separate state, and would be immediately with him." (Gill 1810, 654)

How could David be so fearless? Simple, he committed everything to the Lord.

How can we go about fearlessly serving the Lord? The exact same way. WE commit everything to Him right now. That is indeed a winning proposition and one with returns that are mind blowing.

- Eternal life.
- Joy.
- Love.
- Purpose.
- A life of eternal meaning.

For David, and for us as well, "past deliverances are strong pleas for present assistance. What the Lord has done he will do again, for he changes not. He is a God of veracity, faithful to his promises, and gracious to his saints; he will not turn away from his people." (Spurgeon n.d., 59)



Do we have the mind of the Lord? We are relying on Him and giving Him everything, we trust Him for our eternity, is His mind, through the power of the Holy Spirit impacting how we live. It did for David.

Psalm 31:6–8

“I hate those who devote themselves to worthless idols, But I trust in the LORD. I will rejoice and be glad in Your faithfulness, Because You have seen my misery; You have known the troubles of my soul, And You have not handed me over to the enemy; You have set my feet in a large place.” (NASB 2020)

Somehow, I just do not think David would be spending a whole lot of time reading People Magazine or watching a lot of reality television. The things being proposed by the culture, basically idolatry, is indeed touted on Netflix, You Tube, the Theaters as well as on social media.

There are entire political movements globally today that are based on a form of idolatry. Yet, we tolerate them, maybe even subscribe to them online. But David says, “I hate those who devote themselves to worthless idols.”

The culture wants us to emulate those who it says are successful, to be like the ones who have “made it.” But David says, “I hate those who devote themselves to worthless idols.” Why would I want to be like or act like someone who can even figure out what sex they are. Why would I want to be like or act like someone who celebrates all that our Lord says is an abomination. We really do not need their approval.

We are looking for approval from the one who has died on the cross for us and then risen from the dead. He is the one I want approval from. I want to hear “Well done good and faithful servant.” That means I do not want the approval of the world.

1 John 2:16–17

“For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. **But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.**” (NLT)

We care for unbelievers; we are good to them; we want the best for them; we pray for their salvation. But we cannot embrace them and identify with them as long as they hate our God. (Johnston 2015, 320-321)

Because we trust and have seen the Lord move in the past, we are totally confident and rejoice in His faithfulness along with David. Relying on the Lord, David was instructed to leave Keilah, and he did. He went back on the run.

Psalm 31:8

“And You have not handed me over to the enemy; You have set my feet in a large place.” (NASB 2020)

Once again, the Lord intervened.

1 Samuel 23:12–13

“Then David said, “Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?” And the LORD said, “They will surrender you.” Then David and his men, who were about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. When Saul was told that David had escaped from Keilah, he gave up the expedition.” (ESV)

David continues and describes in his prayer, the misery he finds himself in. Because of running from Saul, because of the fear of others to even defend him. He tells this to the Lord because he believes that God truly cares for him and as such, wants to know what is on his heart.



This is why I struggle with those who teach pray the promise and not the problem. The Lord loves you and me; He died on the cross for us. Why wouldn't He want to know about everything that is going on in our lives, both the good and the bad. Here we see David reflecting how much he loves and trusts the Lord.

David doesn't stay there though wallowing in self-pity as he looks back over his life and the faithfulness of the Lord and he also remembers and tells the Lord about His promises too. It is okay to see the problem and to pray about it, David did and does so again here, but he also saw the solution, the Lord is with him. His trust is in the Lord. As we exam His promises and His faithfulness to us, we can tell Him of our current struggles, but we, as David, are not to major on them but instead we are to find ourselves rejoicing in who the Lord is and how real His promises are to us.

Psalms 31:9–13

"Be gracious to me, LORD, for I am in distress; My eye is wasted away from grief, my soul and my body too. For my life is spent with sorrow And my years with sighing; My strength has failed because of my guilt, And my body has wasted away. Because of all my adversaries, I have become a disgrace, Especially to my neighbors, And an object of dread to my acquaintances; Those who see me in the street flee from me. I am forgotten like a dead person, out of mind; I am like a broken vessel. For I have heard the slander of many, Terror is on every side; While they took counsel together against me, They schemed to take away my life." (NASB 2020)

Dr. McGee lays it out simply. "Are you in trouble, friend? Instead of whining and telling everybody else about it, why don't you go to the Lord? Say, "Lord, I am in trouble!" That is what David did." (McGee 1997, 727)

David tells the Lord; I am in trouble and here is what is going on in my life. He has been and still is in trouble. He is neck deep in testing and waiting on the Lord. Yet he still goes to praise.

Psalms 31:14–15

"But as for me, I trust in You, LORD, I say, "You are my God." My times are in Your hand; Rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from those who persecute me." (NASB 2020)

David has told the Lord what is on his heart, but he isn't staying there in his misery, instead he moves to the confidence of his faith in the Lord.

Ever feel vulnerable as a result of a trial? If we have been ill or were involved in an accident, as we recover and come out of it, we are now more aware of our own mortality than we were before.

Here is the thing though, David has already, in verse 5, entrusted everything to the Lord to include his spirit. No matter what happens to him, it will be Father filtered, and the Lord still has his spirit in the palm of His hand. Shades of Psalm 23:4 & 5.

Psalms 23:4–5

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You have anointed my head with oil; My cup overflows." (NASB 2020)

That removes fear and replaces it with a confidence that Paul talked about.

2 Corinthians 5:6–10

"So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather



be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.” (ESV)

The really amazing thing David says is this, “My times are in your hand.” Is that a statement of mortality on his part. Dr. McGee thinks more.

David recognizes that the Lord is his God. No doubt about it, even in the midst of the troubles he is in. His times are in Your hand. That “is an interesting expression. Many people go to fortune-tellers and have their palms read. They are told that this line means this and another line means something else. All of it is perfect nonsense, but it affords a living for some people; and for others who are trying to get rid of money it provides another way of getting rid of it. But our times are in Christ’s hands. “My times are in thy hand”—and those are crucified hands. I can see my sin in His hands. And they are the tender hands of a Shepherd. He picked up a lost sheep and put it on His shoulders. My care and protection are in those hands. Some future day He is coming with blessing, and those hands will bless. I rejoice that my times are in His hands.” (McGee 1997, 728)

Psalms 31:16–17

“Make Your face shine upon Your servant; Save me in Your faithfulness. Let me not be put to shame, LORD, for I call upon You; Let the wicked be put to shame, let them be silent in Sheol.” (NASB 2020)

David is looking to the Lord to continue to shine His light on him and his life. “God’s light brings life and everything associated with life. While he requests that God give him life, he asks that his enemies die.

He asks God to keep him from the shame that will be inflicted on the enemy.” (Longman III 2014, 162)

Actually though, even though it looks like David is asking for his enemies to be killed, he is asking that they be shamed. He does not want to be shamed himself, those who are shamed in this life, would have nothing to brag about in Sheol as they await judgment.

This is a picture of Those even today who go out of their way to try and “shame” the follower of Jesus Christ because we refuse to follow the dictates of the culture. Spurgeon has this to say about the unbeliever today and shame. “Shame and the silence of death are the best portion that ungodly sinners can expect. That which they desired for despised believers shall come upon themselves by a decree of retributive justice, at which they cannot cavil “As he loved mischief, so let it come upon him.”” (Spurgeon n.d., 63)

Psalms 31:18

“Let the lying lips be speechless, Which speak arrogantly against the righteous With pride and contempt.” (NASB 2020)

Slander was one of the things David had earlier complained about to the Lord in verse 13 when he was telling the Lord what was happening to him. Now he is praying that those who speak lies against the righteous be made speechless. He is asking for a day when the slander will indeed end. A day is indeed coming in answer to David’s prayer. Jude talked about that day.

Jude 14–16

“Enoch, who lived in the seventh generation after Adam, prophesied about these people. He said, “Listen! **The Lord is coming with countless thousands of his holy ones to execute judgment on the people of the world. He will convict every person of all the ungodly things they have done and for all the insults that ungodly sinners have spoken against him.** These people are grumblers and complainers,



living only to satisfy their desires. They brag loudly about themselves, and they flatter others to get what they want.” (NLT)

For the unbeliever, that would be the judgement of Armageddon as well as the Great White Throne.

Psalms 31:19–24

“How great is Your goodness, Which You have stored up for those who fear You, Which You have performed for those who take refuge in You, Before the sons of mankind! **You hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the conspiracies of mankind; You keep them secretly in a shelter from the strife of tongues. Blessed be the LORD, For He has shown His marvelous faithfulness to me in a besieged city.** As for me, I said in my alarm, “I am cut off from Your eyes”; Nevertheless You heard the sound of my pleadings When I called to You for help. Love the LORD, all His godly ones! The LORD watches over the faithful But fully repays the one who acts arrogantly. Be strong and let your heart take courage, All you who wait for the LORD.” (NASB 2020)

This is an interesting picture here that David develops. God stores up His goodness, for those who fear Him. In other words, He is saving up His goodness like treasure for those who follow Him and will provide it as they need it.

God is busy saving up the best things for us, His joy, His blessing, His well being, all to be poured out on His own. Those He is saving it for are not secret saints either. This is for those who have taken refuge in the Lord in the sight of the world. He is storing up His goodness. Goodness is an attribute of God.

Some today would look at that say, what is up with that, He is only good? We have rather destroyed in English what this really means. I personally would prefer the Awesomeness of God. But that is because what we have done to the language. Good is now underrated.

If the goodness of God is underrated, it is because the word good has been put in the bargain bin of the English language. Nobody advertises anything “good” anymore; it always has to be something “better” or “new and improved.” Unless something is “totally awesome,” it will never sell. (Ryken 1999, 160)

A thing is good to the extent that it is all that it can and should be—namely, perfect. God alone is all that he can and should be. Thus, since God is wholly perfect, lacking nothing, he is the supreme and absolute good. Moreover, since he is already himself fully perfect according to his nature, there is no end—no good—toward which he strives. That is to say, God is immutably incapable of becoming more good or less good. To refer to God’s goodness is simply to refer to God himself. That is to say, God’s essence is identical with goodness, and goodness is an essential and necessary attribute of the divine nature. Since God is infinite, his goodness is as immeasurable as his being and nature. Moreover, as self-sufficient, God does not derive his goodness from anything else. Thus, he rests in himself as good. (Sutherland 2018)

Since God is infinitely good, it is who He is, He is more than capable of saving up who He is for us. His goodness, literally Himself is what He has “stored up for those who take refuge” in Him; which is what David tells us here.

God is stockpiling goodness in order to pour it out on us. There is an unlimited amount of goodness that God has stored up to pour on us in Jesus. The rest of that verse sounds a bit obscure: “In the presence of everyone you have acted for those who take refuge in you.” This means that not only has God stored up good things for us, but he has also demonstrated through past generations, in the sight of everyone, how good he has been (Goldingay, Psalms 1–41, 447). In other words, if you ever question God’s goodness for the future, just look to his goodness in the past. (Smith and Akin 2022, 235)



And there it is again. David prays and we also pray for another expression of God's grace to take place today, deliverance from the trial, the test or whatever it is we are coming to Him and asking for. We do this because of how He has already demonstrated His grace to us in the past. And we live reliant upon His grace into the future.

John 1:16

"For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." (ESV)

He lavishly poured out His grace on David, and He also desires to do the same for us who are His today.

Did you know there is only one thing holding back God's blessings from your life? They're not withheld because you haven't been faithful in your devotions this week. They're not kept back because you've failed in some area of your life. Everyone fails. The only thing holding back God's blessings in your life is your own refusal to trust Him for those blessings. The blessings of God are available to anyone who simply believes Him and trusts Him for those blessings. (C. Smith 2018, 72)

David is rejoicing in this for him open truth which is hidden from those who are engaged in sin.

Psalms 31:20–21

"You hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the conspiracies of mankind; You keep them secretly in a shelter from the strife of tongues. Blessed be the LORD, For He has shown His marvelous faithfulness to me in a besieged city." (NASB 2020)

David tells us that those who are actively conspiring against him, to include Saul, are incapable of receiving or seeing God's goodness, God's grace. Those who seek the Lord, realize that they are with Him in the Holy of Holies. The secret place of His presence, a place that as followers of Jesus Christ we all have direct access to.

David knew he could petition the Lord, and he also knew sin would block that access.

David's praising the Lord and blessing the Lord even while he is in the process of having to pack everything up and leave Keilah before Saul arrives. The city is not yet besieged, but David feels as if it is already and it is the Lord rescuing him from it. Why? Because he asked the Lord and the Lord answered his prayers and let him know where to go next.

When we pray for protection, make sure we are also tuned in and listening. The Lord may be letting us know what or where we need to go or do to facilitate what it is He wants to do.

When God blesses us and showers His grace on us, our natural response is to bless Him, even if we are still not totally delivered from the test yet. We know He will deliver, and that is enough.

Psalms 31:22

"As for me, I said in my alarm, 'I am cut off from Your eyes'; Nevertheless You heard the sound of my pleadings When I called to You for help." (NASB 2020)

David remembers how he prayed pleading for the Lord to hear him. The initial alarm at understanding what was going to happen if he remained in place put him on edge and while still in that state, he thought the Lord was not listening.

That was so far from the truth it wasn't even funny and now David again realizes that. When you and I are in the trial, and the heat is rather warm, we too may wonder if the Lord can hear us, does He know and does He care? The answer is, Yes. He hears, He knows and He does indeed care.



Daniel would pray for days looking for an answer from the Lord. He had no idea of the activity going on in the unseen realm as the enemy marshaled his troops to keep the answer away. Remember, we are always in a spiritual battle. Daniel learned that as well as he spent over three weeks fasting and praying with no answer until...

Daniel 10:12–14

“Then he said to me, “Don’t be afraid, Daniel, for **from the very first day you applied your mind to understand and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard.** I have come in response to your words. However, the prince of the kingdom of Persia was opposing me for twenty-one days. But Michael, one of the leading princes, came to help me, because I was left there with the kings of Persia. Now I have come to help you understand what will happen to your people in future days, for the vision pertains to days to come.”” (NET 2nd ed.)

The Lord heard Daniel on day one and moved to answer on day one, but there was an enemy trying to stop or delay the answer.

Why do we persevere in prayer? Because of the enemy. Daniel teaches us that. God heard the words David was praying at the moment he prayed them. He does the same for us as well. Even Paul would tell us to persevere in prayer.

Ephesians 6:18

“With every prayer and petition, **pray at all times in the Spirit, and to this end be alert, with all perseverance and petitions for all the saints.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

Prayer is spiritual warfare, and we already know who’s side we are on, the Lord’s. We engage from victory.

1 John 4:4

“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because **He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.**” (NKJV)

God abideth faithful, hearing prayer even when we are labouring under doubts which dishonour his name. If we consider the hindrances in the way of our prayers, and the poor way in which we present them, it is a wonder of wonders that they ever prevail with heaven. (Spurgeon n.d., 64)

He loves us so much and gives us the Spirit to help us pray.

Romans 8:26–28

“And **the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.** And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.” (NLT)

Our Lord and Savior loves us so much, He has ensured we can be heard even in our own limitations.

Psalms 31:23–24

“Love the LORD, all His godly ones! The LORD watches over the faithful But fully repays the one who acts arrogantly. Be strong and let your heart take courage, All you who wait for the LORD.” (NASB 2020)

David has, as well as we have, experienced the mercy of God. He has blessed us and changed us and as a result, we want others to also share in what it is we have experienced. Forgiveness of sins, eternal



life, peace. Here David calls on all of God's saints, that is, all who have been objects of his mercy, to respond in love to him...All who firmly rely on the LORD will be guarded by him. (Harman 2011, 273)

Being aware that there are those who are arrogantly trying to destroy him, David also recognizes that they will reap what the sow.

For you and me, we need to remember that; God has not changed.

Galatians 6:7

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a person sows, this he will also reap." (NASB 2020)

David knows where he is currently, waiting on the Lord to do what He has already promised to David. For David, being King was an already but not yet proposition and there are many more trials before he gets there. He is learning from the Lord.

The lesson is the same for us. We too are waiting on the Lord and for Him to move on our behalf. Here at Calvary, we are waiting on the Lord for that building He has for us. It is all in His hands and in His timing, not ours. Waiting is hard to do so as David comes to the end of this psalm, he encourages those of us who are waiting on the Lord.

The courage and strength is available in Him. All we must do is trust Him and put our faith in Him and let Him do it as we give Him the glory for what He has already done, and what He will do.

Let's pray.

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