

DELIGHTING IN HIM AS HE DELIGHTS IN US

PSALM 18

=====

Psalm 18 1-6

I will love You, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies. The pangs of death surrounded me, and the floods of ungodliness made me afraid. The sorrows of Sheol surrounded me; The snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, And my cry came before Him, even to His ears.

Psalm 18:16-36

He sent from above, He took me; He drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the Lord was my support. He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He desires; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of the Lord, and have not wickedly departed from my God. For all His judgments were before me, and I did not put away His statutes from me. I was also blameless before Him, and I kept myself from my iniquity. Therefore the Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in His sight.

With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless; With the pure You will show Yourself pure; And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd. For You will save the humble people, but will bring down haughty looks. For You will light my lamp; The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness. For by You I can run against a troop, by my God I can leap over a wall. As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him. For who is God, except the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God? It is God who arms me with strength, and makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like the feet of deer, and sets me on my high places. He teaches my hands to make war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great. You enlarged my path under me, so my feet did not slip.

Psalm 18:46

The Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted.

=====

Once again, this is another of David's 73 Psalms. Psalm 18 is also recorded in 2 Samuel 22. **2 Samuel 22** introduces David's Psalm by saying, "Then David spoke to the Lord the words of this song, on the day when the Lord had delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul." The distinct difference that should be mentioned as to David's God-perspective, versus ours, is that at the time of King David, God has called the nation of Israel out of bondage in Egypt, led them through the wilderness (for forty years) to the promised land, and then established Israel in the land of Canaan that had been inhabited by godless idol-worshippers. God then led the nation of Israel, first through judges, and prophets, and then kings. David was the second king of Israel after the fall of King Saul. Later, Judah split from Israel because of King Solomon's sins and God eventually gave Israel and Judah up to their sins, and they were taken out of their homeland and led into captivity to the Chaldeans, into Babylon.

What that means to us then is that, although King David had a perspective of other nations being his enemy, we are far from that time of God leading Israel and Judah. For us, as the Apostle Paul said, "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." (**Ephesians 6:12**) While other people may give every indication that they indeed are our enemy, that cannot be our perspective. First and foremost we have to recognize as David did, that the battle most certainly is the Lord's. Jesus made it quite clear, when He was asked what is the greatest of the commandments of God, Jesus said, "The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." You remember what Jesus said when He was asked "who is my neighbor"? He gave the "Parable of the Good Samaritan". Samaritans were considered enemies to the Jews.

So we are in a spiritual battle and that battle does belong to the Lord, yet our Lord and God and Savior uses us in that battle, just as God used King David and others in the battle against the godless nations. After Paul spoke of us being in a spiritual battle, in **Ephesians 6**, he continues saying, "Therefore take up the whole armor of God, [the emphasis being on **of God**] that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." To "cut to the chase", our whole armor of God is in our dependency on God in Christ Jesus. Paul continued at the end of **Ephesians 6**, before his customary closing/greeting, he said, "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all

perseverance and supplication for all the saints." What Paul is saying then is that, 1. we are in a spiritual battle for our souls 2. Jesus is our source of victory 3. it is not just about you or me getting to heaven. It is God in Christ bringing us into the unity of fellowship in Him-for all of eternity, to be the family of God! As Paul said earlier in the letter to the Ephesians, we will continue the pursuit of our goal "till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ". (**Ephesians 4:13**) THAT should be our mindset, our goal, our perspective. We are hoping, praying, sharing and showing the love and the gospel of Jesus Christ, in longing anticipation of eventually being made perfect and whole in Christ Jesus-all of us!

It certainly is, or should be our ultimate goal for us to have eternal life in Christ, in His eternal kingdom; yet God is working in us to also want that for others as much as we want it for ourselves. As King David said in **Psalms 27**, "One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple." (**Psalms 27:4**) To be with our Lord, God, and Savior for all of eternity, to be in His Glory and Beauty, and to know God, His will and His ways. Then to also want that for others.

As we have gone over time and again, Paul says in **1 Corinthians 1:30**, that God, through Christ, is our 1. Wisdom 2. Righteousness 3. Sanctification 4. Redemption. As we have believed on Christ Jesus, dying on the cross for our sins, and then we are born-again by receiving His Spirit into our hearts, He begins working in us, transforming us into a Christ-likeness. Not that we are becoming a Christ. Jesus alone took our sins upon Himself, dying on the cross for our sins, and then overcoming the sting of death, and paving the way for us to also have eternal life-IN HIM! In what way are we made into Christ-likeness? The fruit of the Spirit that works in us is "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (**Galatians 5:22-23**) That is not just for us to feel good about ourselves, right? It is that we are His light, His love, His testimony of Jesus being, as He stated "**the Way, the Truth, and the Life.**" (**John 14:6**)

But wait, there's so much more that Christ is for us. David starts off his Psalm saying, "I will love You, O Lord, **my strength**. The Lord is **my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold**. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies." Doesn't that sound like the battle really is the Lord's? Our victory begins in what David said next, "In my distress I called upon the Lord, and cried out to my God; He heard my voice from His temple, and my cry came before Him,

even to His ears." "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (**Romans 10:13**)

We come to love God because He first loved us. (**1 John 4:19**) It is revealed to us by the precious Holy Spirit that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the Living God". (**Matthew 16:16, John 6:69**)

We learn to trust God by beginning to live in the faith that God has given us. To each of us He has given a measure of faith. (**Romans 12:3**) As David said in **Psalm 40**, "I waited patiently for the Lord; And He inclined to me, and heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps. He has put a new song in my mouth—Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, and will trust in the Lord." (**Psalm 40:1-3**) Sound familiar? Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." (**Matthew 5:16**)

David says in our Psalm for today, Psalm 18, "He sent from above, He took me; He drew me out of many waters. He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me, for they were too strong for me. They confronted me in the day of my calamity, but the Lord was my support. He also brought me out into a broad place; **He delivered me because He delighted in me.**" When I read that the other day I was stunned. We had previously looked at what David said in **Psalm 37:4**, "Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart." Then in Psalm 40 David says, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart." As God delights in us by wanting to know God, to be with God, and to do His will, God delights in us as we are delighting in the Lord, and He WILL then give us the desires of our heart. For me personally, what I believe God IS working in me is to know Him, to love Him, and to do His will, and then to also want that, through prayer, for others.

"One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple." (**Psalm 27:4**) To be with our Lord God and Savior for all of eternity, to be in His glory and beauty, and to know God, His will and His ways. And then to want that for others. That, is not just something to be looking forward to on the other side of eternity. That passion for Jesus is working in us even now! By the way, we can have that passion for Jesus as He first had that passion for us. What is the passion of Christ? From "gotquestions.org", they say, "The word passion is from the Latin *pati*, which simply means "to endure" or "to suffer." The term passion of Christ has taken on a technical or semi-technical meaning in theology, referring to the time from Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane to His death on the cross—the time of His greatest suffering.

We aren't intended to parade around like what is a stereotypical arrogant Christian who acts like they are just a little or a lot better than others. David says, "With the merciful You will show Yourself merciful; With a blameless man You will show Yourself blameless; With the pure You will show Yourself pure; And with the devious You will show Yourself shrewd. For You will save **the humble people**, but will bring down haughty looks." Sound familiar? Sounds like David was quoting a bit from Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount". Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you." (**Matthew 5:3-12**)

What Jesus was saying is what David was saying. In this life will be much grief, and sorrow, and pain, and suffering, and even death. But for those who love God, those who are putting their trust in God, and those who are delighting in Him and His ways, "great is your reward in heaven"! As Paul said to Timothy, "if we endure, We shall also reign with Him". (**2 Timothy 2:12**) Endure-having a passion for Christ! What I am longing for, as I hope you are too, is to be with Jesus, to know Jesus more and more, to witness and experience His beauty and glory-now and forevermore! I really could sum it up in what God spoke to Abram, as He is saying to each of us, ""Do not be afraid, [your name] Abram. I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward." (**Genesis 15:1**)

Jesus is our Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, Redemption, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control, our Strength, our Rock, and Fortress, our Deliverer, our Shield, our Salvation, and our Stronghold! Jesus truly is our all-in-all! He is our Way, Truth, and our Life!

As David said in **Psalms 27:6**, "Therefore I will offer sacrifices of joy in His tabernacle; I will sing, yes, I will sing praises to the Lord"! As David said in **Psalms 18**, "The Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted"! We love God because He first loved us. We can trust God, because He IS perfect in all His ways and He has proven to be worthy of our trust. Let us then delight in Him as He first delighted in us.