

## TRUSTING AND LOVING OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR (PSALM 18)

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[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.

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[Can you imagine being in the midst of a terrible storm. The winds blowing fiercely, the floods of water trying to sweep you out to sea. It's dark and terrifying. What will one do in such a time as that? Perhaps you've been in that type of situation physically. Jesus, uses that imagery, as quoted by Matthew, in his gospel account of Christ, saying, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the Rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." (Matthew 7:21-27) Back to what was just read of David's psalm, "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." THAT is the will of God! Trusting God with our whole heart. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6) Loving Him as He first loved us (John 3:16-17). God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus to die on a cross for our sins, taking our place, taking our sins against God upon Himself, on that cross, and then He conquered death, sin, and evil so that we too can overcome the same. And as GOD IS perfect in all of His Ways (2 Samuel 22:31) and His Works (Deut. 32:4), we can trust Him wholeheartedly no matter how HUGE the storm may be! Not JUST for our salvation. Jesus tells us, "I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6)] How bad can and will it get? The book of Revelation tells us that but we get some of that in what follows in David's psalm:

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[Psalm 18:7-24] Then the earth shook and trembled; the foundations of

the hills also quaked and were shaken, because He was angry. Smoke went up from His nostrils, and devouring fire from His mouth; coals were kindled by it. He bowed the heavens also, and came down with darkness under His feet. And He rode upon a cherub, and flew; He flew upon the wings of the wind. He made darkness His secret place; His canopy around Him was dark waters and thick clouds of the skies. From the brightness before Him, His thick clouds passed with hailstones and coals of fire. The Lord thundered from heaven, and the Most High uttered His voice, hailstones and coals of fire. He sent out His arrows and scattered the foe, lightnings in abundance, and He vanquished them. Then the channels of the sea were seen, the foundations of the world were uncovered at Your rebuke, O Lord, at the blast of the breath of Your nostrils. He sent from above, He took me; He drew me out of many waters. [Remind you of Jesus saving Peter in the water? No matter how violent the storm, Jesus is our Calm in that storm; our Rock that will not be moved!] 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**. The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; 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.

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The Apostle Paul tells us that Christ Jesus is for us, from God, our Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption. (**1 Corinthians 1:30**) There is then One Way to have clean hands and a pure heart with God-IN CHRIST JESUS! No matter what storms may come or how impossible it may seem to be in order to overcome, Jesus promises us, **“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”** (**John 16:33**) **“With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible.”** (**Mark 10:27**) For those who have repented and turned to Christ for forgiveness of sins, that He would be their/our Way, Truth and Life, HE DELIGHTS IN YOU! For “you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.” (**1 Peter 2:9-10**)

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**[Psalm 18:25-50]** 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. I have pursued my enemies and overtaken them; neither did I turn back again till they were destroyed. I have wounded them, so that they could not rise; they have fallen under my feet. For You have armed me with strength for the battle; You have subdued under me those who rose up against me. You have also given me the necks of my enemies, so that I destroyed those who hated me. They cried out, but there was none to save; even to the Lord, but He did not answer them. Then I beat them as fine as the dust before the wind; I cast them out like dirt in the streets. You have delivered me from the strivings of the people; You have made me the head of the nations; a people I have not known shall serve me. As soon as they hear of me they obey me; the foreigners submit to me. The foreigners fade away, and come frightened from their hideouts. The Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted. It is God who avenges me, and subdues the peoples under me; He delivers me from my enemies. You also lift me up above those who rise against me; You have delivered me from the violent man. Therefore I will give thanks to You, O Lord, among the Gentiles, and sing praises to Your name. Great deliverance He gives to His king, and shows mercy to His anointed, to David and his descendants forevermore.

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"For 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**) "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled." (**2 Corinthians 10:3-6**) Therefore, "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. **The Lord is at hand**. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (**Philippians 4:4-7**)