

WAITING PATIENTLY, O MY GOD

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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. Blessed is that man who makes the Lord his trust, and does not respect the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies.

Many, O Lord my God, are Your wonderful works which You have done; And Your thoughts toward us cannot be recounted to You in order; If I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. Then I said, "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."

I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness in the great assembly; Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O Lord, You Yourself know. I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth from the great assembly.

Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O Lord; Let Your lovingkindness and Your truth continually preserve me. For innumerable evils have surrounded me; My iniquities have overtaken me, so that I am not able to look up; They are more than the hairs of my head; Therefore my heart fails me.

Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me! Let them be ashamed and brought to mutual confusion who seek to destroy my life; Let them be driven backward and brought to dishonor Who wish me evil. Let them be confounded because of their shame, Who say to me, "Aha, aha!"

Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; Let such as love Your salvation say continually, "The Lord be magnified!" But I am poor and needy; Yet the Lord thinks upon me. You are my help and my deliverer; Do not delay, O my God.

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Psalm 40 is another Psalm of David. 73 of the 150 Psalms are attributed to King David. David is said to have been after God's own heart. How is that? First of all, a part of that answer we can get through the judge/prophet Samuel, when he spoke to King Saul, who had just disobeyed God. Samuel tells Saul, "But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you." (**1 Samuel 13:14**) Through Samuel, God was speaking of replacing King Saul with King David. So what was it then that made David "a man after God's own heart"?

Looking at the life of David, he was far from perfect yet he continued to pursue God, for His favor, His protection, and His salvation. We can see that in all of his Psalms. We most pointedly looked at the heart of David, last week, when we read **Psalm 27**. David said this, "One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; 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 enquire in his temple." (**Psalm 27:4**) He was actually saying that in the midst of great suffering and persecution (from King Saul), as we can surmise from reading the beginning of that Psalm. As I said before, I put a note in my Bible the three things I saw that David's heart was after, 1. to be with God 2. to see God in all His beauty and glory 3. and to know God, to know the will of God. David's focus was fixed on God, from the beginning to the end, despite some serious moral failures along the way.

That right there is the summation of what Jesus said was the great commandment of God, to love God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind. As a child of God, you hopefully getting to know God, love God, and then want to please God. We get to love God because God first loved us. (**1 John 4:19**) The second part of the great commandment then should naturally fall into place to "**love your neighbor as yourself**", as Jesus stated. (**Mark 12:30-31**)

God has created all of the heavens and the earth, and has given us ALL the breath of life, to which we live and exist right now, and He has given us the gift of eternal life in Christ Jesus! In the end, Jesus will do the sorting out of who are His (the sheep) and who are not His (the goats). Matthew, by the way, leaves out strength in Jesus' proclaiming of the great commandment, yet Mark includes it. I mention that because it could be rightly argued that our strength, that is, our spiritual strength comes from God. Remember how David opened His prayer in Psalm 27? "The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The Lord is the **strength of my life**; Of whom shall I be afraid?" (**Psalm 27:1**)

Also, you know how Jesus said, **“without Me you can do nothing”**? (**John 15:5**) Similarly, we know the fruit of the Spirit to be “love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” (**Galatians 5:22-23**) If God, through Christ Jesus, truly is our all in all, what fault is there in us if we just sit back and wait for God to do the work in us, to make us into the image of Christ, as Paul put it? The Apostle Paul also stated, “And we know that all things work together for good to **those who love God**, to those who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.” (**Romans 8:28-30**)

Many get from that passage of Scripture that God already has preplanned the beginning from the end and we are all just programmed to be who we were created to be. That is true to an extent but listen again to what Paul said, “and we know that all things work together for good **to those who love God...**” You know how Jesus claimed, “many are called, but few chosen”? (**Matthew 20:16**) You see where I’m going with this? Jesus declared to the disciples and the Jewish leader, Nicodemus, **“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”** (**John 3:3**) Jesus clarified by saying one must be born of the Spirit, that is, the Holy Spirit of God. Then Jesus said, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”** (**John 3:16-17**)

We have to always have that foundation before we can continue in the gospel of Jesus Christ, to become a child of God, and to then have the fruit of the Spirit working in us. Jesus continued saying, **“He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”** (**John 3:18-21**) Isn’t that what the Apostle Paul was saying, “to those who love God...”, choosing God’s righteousness and the fruit of the Spirit over the lusts of the flesh?

The choice is clearly ours, in our eternal salvation and in what or whom we turn to in our lives. That goes for operating in our own strength or His, our own wisdom or His. Two prime examples are in the

book of Genesis. Eve chose to believe the lie of Satan in the garden of Eden that if she were to eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that she would become like God. The second example is in the people building the tower of Babel, which was after the great flood, so that they could make a name for themselves and not be scattered throughout the earth (even though that is what God had commanded them to do). Our way or God's way. We most certainly do have the choice, to pursue God, despite our failures and faults, or go our own way, to be our own god, to make a name for ourselves. That is where we truly must have Jesus, not only as our Savior, but also as our Lord and our God. From **1 Corinthians 1:30** we are told that 4 things come from God, through Christ Jesus, that are essential for our spiritual survival. God is our Wisdom, He is our Righteousness, He is our Sanctification, and He is our Redemption.

The process for us is that the Holy Spirit leads us to believe that, in the words of the Apostle Peter, that Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God (**Matthew 16:16, John 6:69**). The Apostle Thomas, or doubting Thomas, as he is unfortunately called, came to that same conclusion as seeing Jesus after He rose from the dead. Jesus said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing." And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" (**John 20:27-28**) "Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (**John 20:29**) Blessed are you indeed if you have believed on Christ Jesus even though you have not seen Him. While the Holy Spirit is behind leading us TO believe, it is also imperative to then receive the Spirit of Christ into our hearts. As the Apostle John said, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (**John 1:12-13**)

Once we have believed that Jesus is the Savior of God and then receive Him, our fellowship with God and dependence on God has just begun. So it was from the perspective of David. He begins this Psalm saying, "I waited patiently for the Lord" and ends it with "Do not delay, O my God." How many of you are waiting on the Lord? While David starts by saying he was waiting on the Lord and then pleads with the Lord for His help, he gives us a whole host of things he does in the meantime giving God his praise and thanks.

David recalls God lifting him out of the, "horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my steps." Then David says, "He has put a new song in my mouth—Praise to our God." You ever hear the phrase, "when all else fails, praise the Lord"? How about "God inhabits the praises of His people"? That comes from **Psalms 22:3** that says "But You are holy, enthroned in the praises

of Israel." God, through the Holy Spirit, is leading us to recognize God for who He is, perfect in all of His ways, that HE IS our Savior, our Lord, and our God, and that we have to wholeheartedly trust Him, from the beginning of our walk with Him to the end. "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**) From beginning to end, He is to be our Savior, Lord, and God!

David goes on to say that he acknowledged a great revelation from God. Listen to this, "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. Then I said, "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." "**I delight to do Your will, O my God**"! Another Psalm of David, Psalm 37, he says, "Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart." (**Psalm 37:4**)

God is not looking for us to delight in religious rituals and ceremonies. He wants us to delight in Him, as our our Savior, our Lord and our God! Is it in your heart to delight yourself in the Lord? Is He not just your Savior but also your Lord and Your God?

David says, and it can be our prayer today, "Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O Lord; Let Your lovingkindness and Your truth continually preserve me". David concludes with this, "Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; Let such as love Your salvation say continually, "The Lord be magnified!" But I am poor and needy; Yet the Lord thinks upon me. You are my help and my deliverer; Do not delay, O my God." Jesus is our Salvation! Praise the Lord! Jesus is our Help and our Deliverer! Praise the Lord! My Lord, my God, my Savior! "But I am poor and needy...do not delay o my God."