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DAY 13

JANUARY 21, 2023

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KEY SCRIPTURES

Psalm 61; 2 Corinthians 4:8-9

How do we get from being overwhelmed to singing praises, or from insecurity to full assurance? In Psalm 61 we are not sure who David was hiding from. Some say it was his son Absalom, which may have been the case. But whatever brought him to that place, David knew that he was in trouble and recognized the need to actively seek for God to respond.

What is the difference between a cry and a prayer? Martin Luther explains it this way: "The intellect makes the prayer, but the feeling makes the cry". The feeling is the impulse of desire: it is vague or unstructured, but the prayer is formed, directed and instructed. It shows the feeling what it should desire and how and from where.

David's insecurity had gotten the better of him. He felt overwhelmed by his situation. He found himself in a remote place, far from God, which seemed to him like the ends of the earth. He was at the end of human understanding and strength and resources. But even in this, David did not give up hope, he cried out to God for answers to his prayer.

David asked God to lead him to the towering rock of safety. He desired for God to lead him into his presence. He was familiar with God being his Rock, for he was always in a battle! He wanted God to lead him to a place higher than himself (David).

Ultimately, Jesus Christ is the Rock that is higher... David gathered past experiences of how God delivered him and used them as his argument for building confidence whilst in his remote existence. He built his trust on past experiences of God's faithfulness. (V3)

There are times in our lives when circumstances cause us to lose sight of God's promise to be with us, where like David we come to the end of our human strength. When I was walked off my job back in 2014, I realized how easy it was for life as I knew it to fall apart. Being single with no family member close by, I knew that only God could help, so I cried out to him.

Psalm 27:4-6 became my cry, and it is still my cry today! God has a secret place, and we can have full assurance that he offers maximum security in our times of despair. My prayer was not about another job but finding the Rock!

My friends became afraid for me. They believed I was in shock. They encouraged me to sell my home before things got worse, but I waited on God as he miraculously provided for me. I realized the opportunity in that season to reposition my life, and as I continued to pray God made a way for me to relocate to St. Catharines. I have experienced many difficult situations during the last eight years or so, but God had promised to hide me in times of trouble. (Psalm 27:5)

Prayer changes things, it changes you and me. It is a wise decision when we choose to operate in life under God's divine covering. For to those who fear his name have been given an inheritance. David remembered that God had promised him a Royal dynasty. A generation-to-generation kind of blessing that would last forever.

I don't know where you are crying from right now, but there is no place unsuitable for prayer. "Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal". (Thomas Moore)

- You may be pressed on every side, but you will not be crushed,
- perplexed (unsure of finding a way out) but there is no need for despair,
- hunted down but God will not abandon or desert you to stand alone,
- you may get knocked down, but you will not be destroyed.

It is time to pray, the times we are living in demand it. Prayer will strengthen our resolve and energize our hearts. It helps in developing our relationship with God. The benefits of prayer for the believer are endless, and Jesus himself tells us to always pray and never give up.

REFLECTIONS

- Why is it important to remember and testify of God's goodness towards you?
- 2023 promises to be a challenging year for many if not all;
What can you take from Psalm 61 that will help you when trouble comes?
- Has your prayer life been challenged by David's example in the Psalm? How?

PRAYER

Father God, thank you for your word and the assurance that we can cry out to you in times of trouble. May we take you at your word that you will keep us in perfect peace. Give us the confidence to trust you fully with our lives. Help us to bring hope and light to those who do not know you, that they too will experience your love. Thank you Lord and we ask this in Jesus name. Amen!

