

“He Gives Me the Victory”
(Psalm 18:37-42)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. This morning, we saw David begin to focus on one of the ways God delivers:
 - a. God is our deliverer, our shield and Savior.
 - b. But He often uses means to accomplish this.
 - c. One of the most common means is through His own people.

2. David extols God as His Savior, but it is apparent from this psalm that He delivered David by equipping him for the fight.
 - a. God strengthened David for the battle.
 - b. He gave him the necessary skill.
 - c. He gave him confidence in His promises.
 - d. He made sure that David did not slip or fall.
 - e. He gave him the victory.

B. Preview.

1. In the same way, we were looking at how God often accomplishes victory in spiritual warfare through His people: through us.
 - a. He has given us the means to equip ourselves for the battle through the Word of God and prayer.
 - b. He has given us the Gospel to bring His enemies out of the kingdom of darkness and into the kingdom of light.
 - c. He has given us spiritual armor that will enable us to stand against the attacks Satan will bring for attacking his kingdom.
 - d. We simply need to be faithful in using the armor and the means of this warfare.

2. This evening, I want us to continue to consider the topic of spiritual warfare as David tells us that the Lord fights with us in this battle:
 - a. First, let’s consider what David was able to do with the Lord’s help.
 - b. Second, why God’s help was available to David and why it is still available to us.
 - c. And last, for us to be encouraged that with His help, we will win.

II. Sermon.

A. First, what was David able to do with God’s help?

1. He chased after his enemies (assumes that they fled) and overtook them (v. 37).
2. He did not relent until they were entirely consumed (v. 37).
3. He shattered them so thoroughly that they were not able to stand up again; they were completely subdued under his feet (v. 38).
4. David did this with the help of the Lord:

- a. He gave David the strength (v. 39).
 - b. He subdued those who rose up against David (v. 39).
 - c. God made them run from David and enabled him to destroy them (v. 40).
 - d. God cut off their aid and retreat; He refused to help them (v. 41).
5. With God's assistance, David beat them as fine as dust, and emptied them out as mire in the streets (v. 42).
 6. He had a complete and total victory.
 - a. This didn't mean that David never had any troubles or concern or stress.
 - b. His life was full of cares.
 - c. But when he was confronted with enemies, he trusted in the Lord, and the Lord gave him the strength to overcome all of his enemies.
 - d. The Lord gave him the power to face his enemies and win.
- B. Why was this help available to David, and why is it still available to us? It's only because of what Christ has done.
1. In many ways, David's victory over his enemies is analogous to what Christ would do to His: Christ has fought against the kingdom of darkness and won.
 - a. Jesus was sent into this world to set up a kingdom which would endure forever (2 Sam. 7:16; Dan. 2:44).
 - b. Satan tried to kill Him after His birth – through Herod and the slaughter of the male infants, 2 years and younger in Bethlehem (Matt. 2:16), but failed.
 - c. He tried to get Christ to fall as He was beginning His ministry by tempting Him, but failed (4:1-11).
 - d. As Christ began to wrestle His people out of Satan's grip, Satan did all he could to turn His own people against Him.
 - e. Satan succeeded in their demanding His death, but he failed when that death on the cross struck a mortal blow to his head (Gen. 3:15).
 - f. Christ has fought with the strong man and overcome him, which is why He is now spoiling the strong man's house (Matt. 12:29).
 2. But remember, when Christ fought with our enemy, He also gained the victory for us.
 - a. He won the war.
 - b. The strong man is bound, and we are able to continue to plunder his house.
 - c. All that is left is to fight the many battles that make up this war.
 - d. But we can know when we fight them that the victory is already ours in Christ.
- C. The Lord holds out a promise to us that if we fight using the weapons He provides, we will win: we will win because Christ has already won and because He goes into battle with us.
1. When we go into battle, we don't go alone.
 - a. In the book of Revelation, we see the rider of a white horse, going forth conquering and to conquer (Rev. 6:2).
 - (i) Many today see this rider as the antichrist, going out to deceive the world at the beginning of the seven year tribulation period.

- (ii) But it is better seen as Christ riding forth to fight against His adversaries.
- (iii) First against unfaithful Israel for rejecting Him and His kingdom.
- (iv) Then against His other enemies that will be won either through willing submission or forced submission.

- b. Jesus gave a commission to His church to go into all the world and make disciples of all the nations (Matt. 28:18-20).
 - (i) He promised that He would be with them, even to the end of the age (v. 20).
 - (ii) He is still with His church, as we continue this work today.
 - (iii) There are still battles to fight, but Jesus is with us.

2. We need to trust Him and fight.

- a. Perhaps the main reason we don't see more victories than we do is that we're not putting up much of a fight.
- b. But we should be encouraged that this is a war we can win – a war that has already been won by Christ.
- c. What country wouldn't like to have this assurance when they go to war?
- d. The victory is ours. Every passage that assures us of ultimate salvation assures us that Christ has won the war for us.
- e. Paul writes, "Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Just as it is written, 'For Your sake we are being put to death all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.' But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:35-39).
- f. We can fight knowing that we will win.

D. And so what should we do?

- 1. We must put on God's spiritual armor and fight: The armor is not like putting on clothing – it requires some effort on our part. And we need it, knowing that Satan will do everything he can to fight against us.
 - a. We must walk in the truth:
 - (i) We must obey God for a full assurance of salvation and for His blessing.
 - (ii) We won't win others to the truth unless we walk in it ourselves.
 - b. We must be protected by the righteousness of Christ through faith:
 - (i) Our righteousness won't do: Satan can easily tear through it.
 - (ii) We need the security of Christ's perfect righteousness in which we cannot be condemned (Rom. 8:1). We must *trust* in Christ.
 - (iii) At the same time, we must be protected by the assurance that we are His children by walking in righteousness.
 - (iv) We must subdue our flesh; we must put to death our sins.

- (v) When we see ourselves practicing God's commandments, it shows us that we have a greater righteousness, an invincible righteousness, one that will never leave us condemned.
- c. We must study the Gospel until we understand it and can communicate it well.
 - (i) It's one thing to recognize truth when we hear it.
 - (ii) It's another to be able to communicate it effectively.
 - (iii) We must know it well enough to embrace it.
 - (iv) We must know it well enough to effectively tell others about it.
 - (v) It is the power of God to salvation: the only message the Lord uses to save.
 - (vi) We must learn it and use it.
 - d. We must know God's promises, know how to apply them and trust that He is faithful to His Word.
 - (i) Satan's darts often have to do with our sins and weaknesses.
 - (ii) But we have promises from God that He forgives all our sins and will help overcome all our weaknesses and vulnerable areas.
 - (iii) Let's study the Word to know the promises and ask God for the faith to apply them to ourselves.
 - e. We must have a well grounded assurance:
 - (i) We must see that love of God in our hearts.
 - (ii) We must know that this is the evidence that we are saved.
 - (iii) We must not allow the evil one to devastate us by reminding us of our past sins or making us worry that our sins have not been forgiven.
 - (iv) We must now that we are His.
 - f. We must know God's Word and be able to use it to refute the evil and immoral lies of the devil.
 - (i) The Word is not just for protection or healing, it is for offense.
 - (ii) We must be able to bring the lies of the enemy under the truth of God and expose them for the lies they are.
 - (iii) It doesn't matter that the world doesn't agree with us: it is God's Word and not open to question.
 - (iv) We must use it: that's what the saints of old did, even when others wouldn't listen to them.
 - g. And we must be men and women of prayer.
 - (i) We must pray for strength for ourselves and others.
 - (ii) Pray for the conversion of the lost.
 - (iii) Pray for the outpouring of God's Spirit.
 - (iv) Pray that the Lord will use us.
 - (v) Pray that the Lord will give us the desire to be used.
2. Then we must use our gifts, time, and resources for His service.

- a. Whatever your gifts are, use them not only to provide for your own needs and those of your family, but use them to profit God's kingdom.
- b. Don't budget your time only between your vocation and recreation; set some aside for use in God's kingdom.
- c. Conserve some of your strength specifically for working in God's vineyard. Do all that you do – whether at work or play – for His glory and honor.
- d. Be faithful in your giving to His cause, knowing that God will bless you and return far more than you will ever give to Him.
- e. Pray continually that His kingdom would move forward: at home, in your prayer closet, at church, at the Prayer Meetings.
- f. The kingdom doesn't advance when God's people sit idle: it advances when we seek Him, seek to be used by Him, seek to honor Him.
- g. We've only so much time and so many opportunities for all eternity in this world; let's pray that we might use them well.
- h. Remember that Christ is with us. He is going forth conquering and to conquer. We don't go alone. We don't have to fight alone. He will give us the victory. Amen.