

Always A Time To Praise the Lord

The Lord is My Salvation Psalm 3

Main Idea: The Lord has the power to save!

The context of Psalm 3 is 2 Samuel 15-17. David's son Absalom had a plan. He wanted to take the throne from his father, and in order to do that, he had worked to deceitfully gain the good will of the men of Israel. He was the consummate politician, spinning lies to weave a web of deceit that made King David look like the problem and Absalom himself to look like the solution. He was a glad-hander, greeting every man like they were his best friend and promising every man what he could never deliver. Unfortunately – as is the case still today – many fell for Absalom's selfish deception, and over time, Absalom's supporters grew in the Kingdom of Israel until he finally had enough people who were willing to help him attempt to overthrow his father and take the throne. This is the context of Psalm 3. David is on the run, and his life is threatened. His son Absalom is attempting to usurp the throne, so David looks to the Lord, who is his salvation!

Trust in God's power when the enemy questions God's power (1-2).

The people that wanted David dead and Absalom as King of Israel were against God's purpose. God's anointing was not on Absalom. God's plan was not for Absalom to become King. Those who were against David were against God's will for his Kingdom; therefore, they were against the Lord. Ultimately, this was an issue of faith, which was revealed in the fact that they did not believe that God could save David. They saw the situation through the lens of the flesh alone. Everything looked like it had tipped in favor of Absalom, so they questioned God's power.

1. What are some of the enemies that rise up against those who faithfully trust in the Lord today? Are there those who call themselves the "church" who rise up against God's purpose and his people? Discuss, and share the practical ways you've seen or experienced this?
2. When someone fails to recognize and to trust in God's power, what does that reveal about their faith? Are you trusting in what you can see (circumstances in this world), or are you trusting in God?

Trust in God's power to find strength through God's Word (3-4).

In contrast to his enemies, David trusted in the power of God. Even in the midst of running for his life, David knew that God was his shield. The Lord was his help. David cried out to the Lord, and the Lord in his faithfulness answered him. God's Word, which reminded David of who the Lord was and all that the Lord had promised, was David's comfort in this time of need. Trusting in God's power to fulfill his promises – his Word – brought strength to David's embattled soul.

1. In verse 3, what are the terms that David used to describe the Lord? Use the BlueLetterBible app to study these words and discuss what they mean. How is the Lord these things today?
2. In verse 4, David cried out, and the Lord answered! How did David know that it was God who was answering? How did he know what the answer would be? How does God's Word factor into answering these questions? For David, how did the answers through God's Word (in Scripture and God's Word through the prophets) bring him strength?
3. Have you found strength through God's Word? Share, and encourage one another.

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Trust in God's power to find rest in God's refuge (5-6).

Sleeping is a dangerous thing when there are people pursuing you to kill you! In all circumstances (but especially highlighted in times of danger), sleeping is an act of faith, and David slept. He recognized that God protected him in his sleep just as God protected him when he was awake. He knew God was watching over him, so he had every reason to find rest and to run to the refuge of the Lord. David found rest in God's refuge as he trusted in God's power.

1. Have you ever thought of sleep as an act of worship? In verse 5, how does David recognize sleep in this way? What does he understand about the Lord that allowed him to rest?
2. In verse 6, David isn't talking about sleep specifically, but he's still talking about rest for his soul even when enemies are all around him! How is this possible? Do you have this in your soul? Are you trusting in God's power? Have you found rest in the refuge of the cross?

Trust in God's power to find deliverance in God's defense (7).

David knew that God was the One who had and who still could defeat his enemies, so he called on the Lord — and on the Lord alone — to save him. He asked God to humiliate and to defeat his enemies. He asked God to rise up and to act on behalf of his servant. David knew that God was his only real defense, and David knew that God had the power to defeat the enemy!

1. David called out boldly for the Lord's defense. He said, "arise" and "save me!" How did David's faith and dependent posture before the Lord allow David to call on the Lord so boldly? Do you have this kind of faith and dependent posture before God?
2. David called out for the Lord to humiliate and to defeat the enemy. Who are the enemies of God today? How should you pray for them today?

Trust in God's power to save (8).

For David, there was no doubt as to whether or not God had the power to save. The answer to that question was simple and unchanging: Yes, the Lord has the power to save! In fact, salvation belongs to God and to God alone, so David trusted in the salvation of the Lord. Over our biggest enemy of sin and death, God has the power to save! In the work of his Son who is the King of kings, God has defeated the enemy. Our refuge and rest is found in Christ and in Christ alone, who is our Deliverer and our Savior. Today as then, in all things in life and death, trust in God's power to save!

1. Salvation belongs to the Lord! Study this verse using the BlueLetterBible app. What does it mean that salvation "belongs" to the Lord?
2. While David's situation was unique, God's power was not unique. His sovereign power to save David and to preserve his purpose for his Kingdom extended far beyond that situation. God's sovereign power to defeat the enemy and to bring eternal rest and refuge to his people extended far beyond that situation. Discuss how God's power to save is ultimately and eternally found in the gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - a. Have you trusted in God's power to save? If not, why not?
 - b. Do you know someone who needs to hear about and to trust in the gospel of Jesus Christ? If so, who? How will you tell them about Jesus this week?