

Summer Psalms
IN THE MIDST OF TROUBLE

Friday, August 8

Reading: Psalms 138

Psalms 138:7 *Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve my life...8 The LORD will vindicate me; Your love, LORD, endures forever— do not abandon the works of Your hands.*

Have you ever sucked on a teabag? While it is edible, you are not getting the full flavor of the tea. You only get the best from your teabag when you soak it in hot water. Sometimes we feel like that teabag! The problems in our life are “hot” and lingering. But God has a purpose in every problem. As pastor/author Chuck Swindoll wrote, “Every problem is an opportunity to prove God's power. Every day we encounter countless golden opportunities, brilliantly disguised as insurmountable problems.”¹

In Psalm 138:7, David says “Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve my life.” However, as we read the rest of his psalm we see few signs of this trouble. Whatever problems David was experiencing he did not allow them to change the way he lived his life.

Troubles did not affect David’s WORSHIP (138:1-3). David’s heart was focused on God, not his problems. God’s unfailing love (*hesed*) and faithfulness are bigger than anything he might face. His worship and prayer life have given him boldness to face whatever life threw at him.

Troubles did not affect David’s WITNESS (138:4-6). He would tell of God’s ways and glory to “all the kings of the earth” so they could praise the Lord. The lowly also would hear of God and know that He cares for them. The lofty and the lowly must both hear of the salvation of God.

Troubles did not affect David’s WALK (138:7-8). In the midst of his troubles, David confidently says that God will take care of him. He knows God will defend and uphold him. He once again leans on God’s (*hesed*) love to sustain him.

Trouble is a fact of life. We can’t avoid it. But how we respond when trouble comes shows how strong our relationship with God really is! David boldly proclaims, “The LORD will fulfill His purpose for me” (138:8 ESV). The final sentence of the psalm is a prayer that all God has done in him, for him and through him – that all the purposes of God will be fulfilled.

The Apostle Paul expressed this same attitude when he wrote to the struggling church in Corinth. He wrote:

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.
(2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

¹ Charles Swindoll, One Step Forward, Two Steps Back, p. 35