



Midtown Messenger

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Issue 8

Encouragement In Prayer *Psalm 3:4-8*

By: Ronnie Scherffius

David's trust in God as his Protector and Deliverer enabled him to overcome seemingly insurmountable difficulties. When his son Absalom became his greatest enemy (2 Sam. 15-18), David turned to God for encouragement. Psalm three is a lament for the increased troubles and discouragement of the deposed king (Psa. 3:1, 2; cf. 2 Sam. 16:7, 8). But David's lament turns to praise as his trust in God lifts him above one of the darkest hours of his life.

From Psalm 3:3, we learn that David's trust enabled him to acknowledge God as his Protector, glory, and pride: "But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head." The remainder of this psalm expresses the encouragement David finds in prayer to the God he trusts.

David begins his prayer with a **confidence** that God will hear: "I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. Selah" (Psa. 3:4). The faithful of God have an abiding assurance that God will hear both their praise and their plea (Ps. 34:15; Prov 15:29; 1 Pt. 3:12). In truth, the Lord is not simply attentive to the prayers of His children, but delights in their supplications (Prov. 15:8; cf. 1 Kgs. 3:10; Ps. 141:2).

Jesus admonished, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matt. 7:7). God will neither hide His face, nor turn His ear from a confident trust expressed in prayer: "he heard my voice out of his temple, and my

cry came before him, even into his ears" (Psa. 18:6; cf. 22:24).

David's confidence in God's attentiveness provided a **calmness** to face uncertain times: "I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the Lord sustained me" (Psa. 3:5). Those who trust in the Lord enjoy a "peace that passes understanding" (Phil. 4:7). Such peace comforts and reassures in hours of trials. The psalmist affirmed: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me" (Psa. 23:4).

Paul noted that Christians have "access with confidence" by a trusting faith (Eph. 3:12). And John instructed, "this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us" (1 Jn. 5:14). Solomon penned, "In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge" (Prov. 14:26). Trust and confidence expressed in prayer provide peace during times of trouble.

Trusting in God's salvation, David found the **courage** to face seemingly impossible odds: "I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people, that have set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God: for thou hast smitten all mine enemies upon the cheek bone; thou hast broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation belongeth unto the Lord: thy blessing is upon thy people. Selah" (Psa. 3:6-8). Like David, we may find that those of our own house become our ene-

mies (Lk. 12:52, 53). When one lives according to the truth he is often opposed by his fellows (Gal. 4:16) and forsaken by his friends, especially when difficulties arise (2 Tim. 4:16). Nevertheless, in prayer to the God of our salvation, we find the confidence, calm, and courage to persevere.

In praise to God, the psalmist sang: "O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore" (Psa. 105:1-4). What encouragement can be found when we seek the Lord in prayer!

My God Is So Big!

So they brought to the people of Israel a bad report of the land that they had spied out, saying, "The land, through which we have gone to spy it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people that we saw in it are of great height... and we seemed to ourselves like grasshoppers, and so we seemed to them."

Numbers 13:32-33

There's a song the kids like to sing that goes like this: "My God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do."

Do you believe that? Can you honestly say that your God is big, strong, and mighty and that nothing is impossible for him?

The children of Israel sang a song very similar to that one. When they crossed the Red Sea they sang "The Song of Moses":

"I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. The LORD is

my strength and my song; and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him, The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name." (Ex 15:1-3)

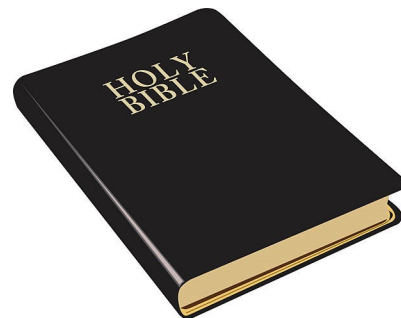
They sang about God's power, majesty, and holiness. They sang about how the inhabitants of Philistia, Edom, Moab, and Canaan were all trembling and full of dread and terror because of God's marvelous works in Egypt (Ex 15:6, 7, 11, 14-15).

But somehow they had forgotten that song. When they went in to spy out the land, they forgot about the Warrior God who had decimated Egypt and Pharaoh's armies. They focused on God's enemies instead.

The lesson is simple: Don't focus on your problems. You'll turn into a grasshopper if you do. Your enemies will see you that way as well. Focus on God. Keep your eyes on the One who has never failed His servants who called upon his mighty name.

And keep singing that song, "My God is so big, so strong and so mighty, there's nothing my God cannot do!"

-Selected-



PRIVILEGED TO SERVE
Week of February 21, 2021

****subject to change****

Sunday Morning:

Announcements: Kevin Sheeran
Scripture Reading: Isaac Jobes

Lord's Supper & Offering

Communion: Lupe Escojido
Offering: Clifton Rutherford

Prayer

A.M. Opening: Bryce Dolan
A.M. Closing: Kevin Sheeran
P.M. Opening: Doug Jobes
P.M. Closing: Steve Randle

Song Leaders:

Sun. A.M.: Doug Jobes
Sun. P.M.: Kevin Sheeran
Wednesday: Isaac Jobes

Ushers: Allen Clifton

Greeters: Allen Clifton

Wednesday Devotional: Doug Jobes

Open/Close Building:

Membership Survey

Please fill out the online membership survey that was emailed out on Jan. 29th. If you need a physical copy, please contact Kevin Sheeran.

Sermons are available on our website

www.midtowncoc.org

Midtown's Bible Classes and Worship services can be viewed livestream on YouTube. Search Midtown church of Christ Victoria.

IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Please pray for those who are affected by the Winter Storm this past week.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

Happy Birthday: Virginia Escojido (21); Mickey Tisue (22); Simon Cammock (24)

Happy Anniversary: Richard and Mickey Tisue (26)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

March 5th & 6th: Graeber Road church of Christ in Rosenberg is hosting an evangelism workshop with Rob and Nicole Whitacre of Jacksonville, AL.

****Just a friendly reminder to continue practicing social distancing****

KEEP IN PRAYER

MIDTOWN MEMBERS:

Jeff Cannady
Les Daltry
Ken and Sandra Marie
Wayne Martin
Ann Pantel
Veronica Serenil
Clark Withers

SHUT-INS:

Dee Gilpatrick
Faye Henderson
Charlie Mabe
Sandy Malone

If you would like to add or remove a name on the "Keep in Prayer" List, please see Nina Siegel.

MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

Minister: Ronnie Scherffius

Secretary: Nina Siegel

TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Class: 9:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:00AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 5:00PM
Wednesday Bible Class: 7:00PM

RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

Week of February 14, 2021

Bible Class.....32
A.M. Worship.....39
P.M. Worship.....na
Wednesday Bible Class.....na

Offering \$2,981

Reading for this week:

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love...”

Ephesians 3:17

SUPPORTED WORKS

India - Mani Pagidipalli

Bible Land Passages - John & Carla Moore

Southwest School of Bible Studies - Anthony Scherffius

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