

Courage in the Face of Adversity

Scripture

“«A Psalm of David when he fled from Absalom his son.» LORD, how they have increased who trouble me! Many [are] they who rise up against me. Many [are] they who say of me, "[There is] no help for him in God." Selah But You, O LORD, [are] a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up my head. I cried to the LORD with my voice, And He heard me from His holy hill. Selah I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the LORD sustained me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people Who have set [themselves] against me all around. Arise, O LORD; Save me, O my God! For You have struck all my enemies on the cheekbone; You have broken the teeth of the ungodly. Salvation [belongs] to the LORD. Your blessing [is] upon Your people. Selah” (Ps 3:1-8 NKJV)

Devotion

No matter what we do in life it seems that we always have our enemies. This world is hostile to believers, and this is reasonable because we who believe have defected from the world. We are no longer in harmony with the children of wrath.

As it is written, “And you [He made alive], who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.” (Eph 2:1-3 NKJV)

However, we have no need to fear any enemy as long as we call upon God and look to Him for protection. As David said, “I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people who have set [themselves] against me all around.”

We too may have confidence in God to protect us if we will call upon Him as David did. Two things are required: humility and faith.

We must be humble enough to admit that the enemy is too strong for us. We cannot face all the fiery darts of the devil without first recognizing our strength is in God, in His might (Eph. 6:10). Too often we believe we can handle situations by trying to out-manuever the children of wrath. This is foolishness that leads to sin. “. . . For the sons of this world are more shrewd in their generation than the sons of light.” (Lu 16:8 NKJV) Therefore, “. . . my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.” (Eph 6:10 NKJV)

However, it is not enough to understand our inability; we must also have faith in God’s ability. As believers we say we have faith in God, but our actions often betray our words. When we allow our flesh to do our fighting, we have misplaced our faith. “Some [trust] in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the LORD our God.” (Ps 20:7 NKJV)

When we hold back our insults, we remember the name of the LORD our God. When we refuse to gossip, we remember the name of the LORD our God. When we love our enemies, we remember the name of the LORD our God. This is what it means to have faith in our Protector!

So think about your situation. Whether it is a co-worker, boss, or neighbor who is set against you the solution is to humbly call upon God’s help. You cannot change that person, but God might. If He doesn’t

change them, He might move them. However, one thing you can be sure of is this, if you deal with your problem in the power of the flesh you are sure to fail. Even if you manage to temporarily improve things, God will likely allow a replacement to take their place.

Trials are part of life. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world!