

Our Source of Courage

Scripture

“Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the LORD.” (Psalms 31:24 NKJV)

Commentary

Men find courage in many places. Some look for money to provide a sense of peace. They try to buy their way out of all their troubles. Others pursue drugs and alcohol hoping to escape the reality of their situation. Still others prop themselves up by wielding power over other people. If they can punish others, then their fears are somehow less intense. However, these are short-lived solutions, and they are no solution for the ultimate enemy, sin and death.

The psalmist is in great distress as he says, “I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; I am like a broken vessel.” (Psalms 31:12 NKJV) The world has a way of beating us up. It is a hostile environment for a believer. Perhaps you feel like this psalmist, alone and beaten. However, you may be of good courage if you will hope in the Lord.

One thing you must do to foster this hope is to pray for deliverance. Notice how the psalmist asks for God’s help. “In You, O LORD, I put my trust; Let me never be ashamed; Deliver me in Your righteousness. Bow down Your ear to me, Deliver me speedily; Be my rock of refuge, A fortress of defense to save me.” (Psalms 31:1-2 NKJV) We usually find ourselves in the greatest trouble when we have strayed farthest away from the path. The first step in the right direction is to bow before the one who can help. Cry out to God!

Appeal on the right basis. We are too selfish in our requests. Why should God help you, if your motive is just self-love? No, you must recognize how your waywardness has given a reason for the world to blaspheme your God. You must appeal humbly, as the psalmist did, for God’s glory. Notice his submission. “For You [are] my rock and my fortress; Therefore, for Your name’s sake, Lead me and guide me.” (Psalms 31:3 NKJV) His appeal was based on God’s name sake.

Of course, you must repent of all known sins. He will not listen to you if you are holding on to your iniquity. Look at how the psalmist confessed. “Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; My eye wastes away with grief, [Yes], my soul and my body! For my life is spent with grief, And my years with sighing; My strength fails because of my iniquity, And my bones waste away.” (Psalms 31:9-10 NKJV) He did not blame God. He blamed himself. His strength was gone because he had sinned against God. If God seems far from you, you must at least consider the possibility that you may be the problem.

The glorious truth is that you have nothing to fear if you will just return to the Lord. Likely your troubles are just God’s way of drawing you back to Him. He chastens all His children. Don’t fight it any longer. Things could just get worse. Ignore the devil’s lies, and return to God.

Prayer

Lord, we are so easily entangled by sin. We know that you will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able to endure. Show us the way of our escape. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. We are your children. Give us strength beyond our ability for your name’s sake. Raise us up that all the world will see the power of your Holy Spirit working in our lives, and that you might be glorified. Lord, you alone are worthy of honor and praise. Help us as we seek to bring you the honor and glory you deserve, amen.