

The Lord Is My Strength

Scripture

“A Psalm of David. To You I will cry, O LORD my Rock: Do not be silent to me, lest, if you [are] silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit. Hear the voice of my supplications when I cry to you, when I lift up my hands toward your holy sanctuary. Do not take me away with the wicked and with the workers of iniquity, who speak peace to their neighbors, but evil [is] in their hearts. Give them according to their deeds, And according to the wickedness of their endeavors; Give them according to the work of their hands; Render to them what they deserve. Because they do not regard the works of the LORD, nor the operation of His hands, He shall destroy them and not build them up. Blessed [be] the LORD, because He has heard the voice of my supplications! The LORD [is] my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped; Therefore my heart greatly rejoices, And with my song I will praise Him. The LORD [is] their strength, and He [is] the saving refuge of His anointed. Save your people, and bless your inheritance; Shepherd them also, and bear them up forever.” (Psalms 28:1-9)

Commentary

“The Lord is my strength and my shield” was spoken by David from experience. How often do you find occasion to make such a claim? If these words seem foreign to you, then ask yourself how it is that you can walk among a fierce enemy in a raging battle without recognizing the Lord’s protecting hand. Is it because you are so heavenly minded that you never feel the attacks? Have you become so saintly that God just keeps you in a protective bubble all the time? Or, is it possible that you are so harmless to the forces of evil that they just ignore you? The verse says, “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” (2 Timothy 3:12 NKJV). The qualifying statement is, “all who desire to live godly.” Could it be that you are not living godly, and this is why you are unable to appreciate David’s words?

I fear that many Christians never do enough harm to the enemy to even solicit an attack. My greatest concern is that these pliable ones are only Christians in name. It is critical that the people of God walk in holiness spreading the message of salvation. How can one assure his heart without holiness? “My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.” (1 John 3:18-19 NKJV)

With the devil and the flesh ever on the prowl, it is very difficult to live a holy life. If you have found the way of holiness easy, then I fear you do not understand sin. Sin easily ensnares the believer (Heb. 12:1). “Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin” (1 Peter 4:1 NKJV).

Please take a hard look at your life. Do you find yourself praising God for His deliverance? Most people think about God’s deliverance as being from calamities. However, God’s greatest deliverance is from sin and death. Are you walking in holiness?

“Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore strengthen the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be [dislocated], but rather be healed. Pursue peace with all [people], and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; lest there [be] any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.” (Hebrews 12:11-17 NKJV)

Prayer

Father, help us to enter the fray with confidence knowing that you are there to protect us and strengthen us. Let us not become complacent imagining that we are in the battle when we are really casualties. Raise us up to walk in holiness before you. Be glorified in our lives, amen.