

“OUT OF DISTRESS”

Psalm 25:1-22

(4 Trade Secrets That Victorious Believers Know)

“The troubles of my heart are enlarged; O bring thou me out of my distresses” (v. 17)

— INTRODUCTION —

- Psalm 25 is a prayer of David as he travels through some detours.
- He is being slandered by the enemy (again) and has no way to vindicate himself.
- He is plagued with hurdles, obstacles, distractions and the unexpected.
- He discovers (and reveals to us) an amazing truth. (What is it?)

Meditation is Medication as he learns to pray and look to God:

“Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.” (v. 21)

Questions With Answers

1. What is it that delivers the soul from anxiety?
2. How does David see his distresses relieved?
3. What is it that strong believers remember continually?
4. What is the secret of those who pray victoriously?

I. Victorious People Know Which Way To LOOK

“Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.” (v. 1)

Fact: The natural, carnal man looks to natural sources.

Fact: The victorious believer looks to the supernatural.

Fact: David reveals to us a marvelous truth here:

“Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul” is not some temporary raising of my heart to God!

The Hebrew Phrase Of This Verse Means:

- A choice to look above what we presently see.
- A state of mind fixed upon the Lord.
- A permanent setting of my affections upon God.

In Other Words

- I live here — but my mind is upward.
- I live here — but my thoughts are heavenward.
- I live here — but my affections have eternity in view.

II. Victorious People Know Who To TRUST

“O my God, I trust in thee; let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me.” (v. 2)

Fact: David is confident in the one to whom he prays.

Fact: David is believing in the one to whom he calls upon.

Fact: David has learned to pray and wait !

- “Let none that wait on thee be ashamed” (v. 3)
- “On thee do I wait all the day” (v. 5)
- “I wait on thee” (v. 21)

Fact: David has encountered some enemies.

“Consider mine enemies; for they are many, and they hate me with cruel hatred.” (v. 19)

Question: How does David respond to his agitation?

Answer: He makes a smart move to “wait on the Lord” (or)

- He responds from the spirit, not the flesh.
- He refuses to retaliate, and contend.
- He allows patience to have its perfect work.
- He waits in submission upon the Lord.
- He exercises faith. (That still works today !)

The 4 Powers of Faith When In the Battle: (From Jeremiah 17:7, 8)

1. “Shall not see when heat cometh” means: There will be no fear because of faith.
2. “Shall be green” means: You will flourish even in adverse circumstances.
3. “Shall not be careful in drought” means: No anxiousness because of hidden resources in God.
4. “Shall not cease from yielding fruit” means: You will continue to bear fruit regardless of your external agitations.

III. Victorious People Know That God Will LEAD Them

“Show me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths.” (v. 4)

“Lead me in thy truth, and teach me” (v. 5)

“The meek will He guide” (v. 9)

Fact: David knows that “man’s goings are of the Lord”. (Proverbs 20:24)

Fact: David knows that “the way of man is not in himself;” he cannot direct his own steps. (Jeremiah 10:23)

Fact: David knows that God will direct him in all his paths. (Proverbs 3:5, 6)

Fact: David knows that the Shepherd’s sheep know the voice of the Shepherd. (John 10:4)

Remember These “Voice of the Lord” Secrets

- It is a *familiar* voice (you will understand and comprehend the leading of Jesus).
- It is a *personal* voice (other people may confirm what God is telling you; but let no one play the role of psychic, astrologer or palm reader). Remember: God knows you by name!
- It is an *inner* voice (of impression, of conviction, of comfort, of peace, of guidance).
- It is a *truthful* voice (which means it will always be in accord with the Word of God).

IV. Victorious People Know That OBEDIENCE PAYS!

“All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.” (v. 10)

Question: What is the reward of total obedience to God?

Answer: God will direct our steps, bless our work, and use us in many unique ways.

Remember...

- My progress in God will go no further than my obedience takes me!
- Obedience to the known will of God is the certificate of Christian character.

Conclusion

It's Not Always Easy...

- “I am desolate and afflicted” (v. 16)
- “The troubles of my heart are enlarged” (v. 17)
- “Look upon my pain” (v. 18)
- “They hate me with a cruel hatred” (v. 19)

But Victorious People...

- Know which way to look. (The Lord)
- Know the Shepherd's voice. (And follow Him)
- Know who to trust. (At all times)
- Know that obedience pays great dividends.

AMEN !

Pastor Bill Kirk