

PSALMS 30

A Psalm. —A song of the dedication of the house of David.

GOD OF THE SECOND CHANCE - GOD OUR DELIVERER

{30:1} I will exalt you, O LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me. {2} O LORD my God, I called to you for help and you healed me. {3} O LORD, you brought me up from the grave ; you spared me from going down into the pit.

Historically, this Psalms is thought to have written in connection with one of three possible situations in the life of David.

1. When David built his house of cedar and occupied it after having lived in caves when was fleeing from Saul.
2. When David returned to his house after the insurrection of Absalom and he was purging it from wickedness of the incest of his son with his daughter and was rededicating it to the Lord.
3. Was written in anticipation of the completion of the Temple that David arranged to be built but was completed by Solomon.

Regardless of what the occasion was, the lessons we can learn are the same. Whether we are talking about the home of our abode or the place of gathering for worship, we should dedicate both to God. Some will do such a dedication formally and that is good. However, it is more important that the dedication be done in practical terms of how we use our homes or the church building. If our homes are dedicated unto the Lord, then there will be expectations associated with the sanctity of the home as a place where the Lord Jesus would be welcomed. We could say the same thing with regard to the church building. It is a special place. It should be treated in a special way.

Notice that David took the occasion of the dedication to acknowledge and praise God for the salvation of God in his life. This could have been in reference to his deliverance from Saul, or from those who were attempting to overthrow the government and make Absalom king, or it could be in reference to his life in general.

We can even see Messianic implications in this Psalm with regard to the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Since Jesus is the Pioneer of our faith, then there are implication for us in our salvation.

It is possible to find an implication relative to our physical bodies in these verses. We should not only dedicate our homes and our church building but also our physical bodies unto the Lord. As such we would treat our bodies in ways that would be honoring to God.

In thinking in physical terms of our bodies, then we could associate the “depths” with sickness and the enemies with diseases. The healing mentioned in verse 2 would then take on a literal meaning and the reference to the grave could also be literally interpreted.

We are quick to credit medical science and physicians with healing and yet we seldom look to God (Who created us) for help in this area. We think that if we can possibly find human help, then we will not bother God with our problems. This may simply be human pride at work within us. We think we can do it ourselves (or pay for it ourselves) and therefore will not be “indebted” to God for what He gives us. Yet we fail to realize that God is the One who heals us. Ultimately, healing and health are His provision.

When physical health is lacking, then we begin to consider our mortal nature and that someday we will die physically. If we are very sick, we may think that day will be sooner than we first thought. Such close encounters with death followed by healing, cause us to realized we have been given a second chance.

CELEBRATING DIVINE COMPASSION

{4} Sing to the LORD, you saints of his; praise his holy name. {5} For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.

We should sing praises to God for all He has done. We are especially prone to do so when something we consider “good” (such as being delivered or being healed) happens to us. (We tend to use the word “delivered” with reference to spiritual or emotional help and the word “healed” with reference to physical help.)

Most Christians refuse to consider the possibility that problems (physical, emotional, or spiritual) we encounter or even of physical sickness being a means of discipline to bring us back to where we should be in our relationship to God. The implication in these words of David is clear that God does use such situations as an expression of His anger (not wrath) which can be useful in dealing with wayward saints. If we realize God loves us supremely and does whatever He does to bring us into a closer relationship with Himself (being redemptive), then we can not only rejoice in the morning (when deliverance or healing comes) but can rejoice in the night (before the burden is lifted) because we know that God is still in control and that He want the very best for us.

CONFESSING OUR FAULTS

{6} When I felt secure, I said, "I will never be shaken."

We tend to be overly influenced by our feelings rather than operate from a position of faith. We are confident that things will always be the same or they will only get better. Usually we give credit to ourselves when this happens. In times of prosperity we have a tendency to "forget" God. This is the same mistake Israel made throughout their history and especially during the days of the Judges.

{7a} O LORD, when you favored me, you made my mountain stand firm;

Eventually, we will come to a realization that any prosperity we have is a result of the unmerited favor (grace) of God. We may even move from confidence in ourselves to great confidence in God and we become very "spiritual" or pious. We tend to forget that God uses ALL things to work together for good to bring about the transformations He wants to accomplish in our lives. When the mountain stands firm we think God is favoring us. What happens when the mountain is shaken up?

{7b} but when you hid your face, I was dismayed.

Our confidence melts when we do not have a sense of God's presence. If we do not feel His presence, then we must trust His word. He said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." We should not assume the worst when situations are not progressing according to our expectations. God may be working out something better than we had imagined.

SUPPLICATION FOR GOD'S MERCY

{8} To you, O LORD, I called; to the Lord I cried for mercy: {9} "What gain is there in my destruction, in my going down into the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it proclaim your faithfulness?" {10} Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me; O LORD, be my help."

It is at the low points in our lives when we think that God has hidden His face or that He doesn't care what happens to us that we return to calling out for His mercy. We no longer have the feeling that we will never be shaken. We no longer put our trust in our own strength but return to the point of realizing that all we have or ever hope to be is dependent upon God's mercy and grace. The sad fact is that we DO drift away from God when we have prosperity and we return (repent) when the prosperity is not there. A sign of spiritual maturity is that we look to God for His mercy and His grace even when there is prosperity.

REJOICING IN GOD'S GRACE

{11} You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, {12} that my heart may sing to you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.

Because God is faithful, we find He does meet our needs and our fears go away when we see He was there all the time. Once again, we feel His presence and then we praise Him. We need to come to the point of praising God because of Who He is rather than because we feel He is near or because we suddenly realize He has done something "good" in our lives.

David praised God because of what God had done. This is right and it is good. It is far better that we praise God because of Who He is and realize that whatever happens will be used by God to bring us into conformity with the image of His Son Jesus.