

## **Psalms 17,18**

**Psalms 18:46 The Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted.**

Our two Psalms today are a prayer and a thanksgiving. If we will pray then thanksgiving will soon follow.

**Psalms 17:** Scroggie points out the three Personal requests David makes in our Psalms. The first is "hear" in v. 1. Next we have "hold me" in verse 5 and then "hide me" in verse 8. In our prayers we want to be heard. The great thing is that we are heard and we can know that this is true. Further, David wants to be held by God on His path so that his "footsteps may not slip" Then, David wants to feel God's protection and care, "Hide me under the shadow of your wings."

These cries for help are expressed out of deep upset brought out by the active aggression of his enemies. These enemies become David's focus and this takes David to an unhealthy place. whatever your focus is on, this is what will control you. But then , David turns away from that to remember the Lord. This brings him back to peace and joy. "As for me, I will see your face in

righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in your likeness."

**Psalm 18:** The circumstance of the Psalm is as the Lord's deliverance of David from his enemies and from King Saul. David's celebration of this evokes some of his most memorable expressions of worship. Verses 1-3 are a case in point, "I will love you O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust ; My shield and the horn of my salvation. I will call upon the Lord, Who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies." and in verse 46, "The Lord lives! Blessed be my rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted."

Our deepest experiences of worship are often circumstantial. In the distress of David's crisis, when God delivered Him and saved him again, and possibly in a situation in which David had despaired of life, this led to some of David's richest thoughts of God. It is almost like eating a meal when you are famished - the food tastes then at any other time. Or, it is like sitting by a fire when you are really cold. There is comfort and contentment there that is amplified by the deprivation of your suffering.

Objectively, food has a specific taste according to what it is and how it is fixed and so forth. And the heat of a fire will reach a given temperature according to the kind and amount of fuel, outside temperature and so forth. Circumstances chance our subjective experiences of taste and warmth. Spiritually, God is always who He is. But we experience the wonder of His character when in distress we cry out and discover that He meets our every need.

David's insight into God's character was shared, "With the merciful you will show yourself merciful ; With the blameless man you will show yourself blameless; With the pure you will show yourself pure; And with the devious you will show yourself shrewd; For you will save the humble people, but will bring down haughty looks. For you will light my lamp. The Lord my God will enlighten my darkness. For by you i can run against a troop. By my God i can leap over a wall. As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him."

These things were and are always true of God but David saw and experienced this in his time of distress. How much could we know God and know of God if we had no troubles?