

Psalms 31,33

Psalms 33:20-22 Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in Him, because we have trusted in His holy name. let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us, just as we hope in You.

Psalms 31 is a Psalm of personal struggle. Psalms 33 begins and ends in the second person but the main body of the psalm is in the objective.

Psalms 31 - In verses 1-8 the key word is trust. David shares his story of trust that he offered to God and trust that God rewarded. He knew that God is a God who hears prayers and delivers His people and he expected God to hear him, deliver him, be his rock of refuge and his fortress of defense. With these things settled, David continued to describe a life of trust in God. Because God was his rock, he trusted God to lead and guide him. Since God had rescued him, he confessed, "You are my strength, into Your hand I commit my spirit..." David then recounts how God had delivered him in the past, "For You have considered my trouble; You have known my soul in adversities and have not shut me up into the hand of the enemy."

But then, David fell into sin. He was in trouble. He was overwhelmed by tears, grief and regret. He expressed his discouragement, "My strength fails because of my iniquity." David's reputation had been destroyed, "I am a reproach among all my enemies, but especially among my neighbors, and am repulsive to my acquaintances..."

From this, David turned back to the Lord. It was not God who was in the way of his recovery but himself. God graciously saves sinners. Once we have come to know Him, should we fall again we will find that God graciously saves sinners. When we come back to God there is nothing to stop us from coming all the way back to God. For a time, David allowed his sin to keep him from God but he confessed, "I said in my haste, I am cut off from before Your eyes.

Nevertheless, You heard the voice of my supplications when I cried out to You."

David moves from being discouraged to becoming the encourager. "Be of good courage and He shall strengthen your heart, all you who hope in the Lord."

Psalms 33 - Psalms 33 lifts us in praise to God. First, the one who praises is righteous and upright. The means of praise is music and song. The One who is praised is the

Lord whose word is right, whose work is done in truth, who loves righteousness and justice, and who fills the earth with His goodness.

God's worthiness of such praise is seen in His creation, in His commandments, in His blessing of His people, in His comprehensive judgment of all peoples.

In the presence of such a God, many trust in the natural - the multitude of an army, the great strength of a mighty man, a horse that lifts you above the enemy and whose strength has been decisive in many a battle. None of these are reliable - only the Lord!

"Behold the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine."

So, wait for the Lord, let Him be your help and shield, rejoice from your heart in Him, trust in His holy name for He will show mercy as we hope in Him.