

A Matter of Trust

At almost any given time God's people are facing difficulties of one sort or another, e.g., personal struggles, issues related to our immediate family, extended family, acquaintances, friends and yes, people that we don't even know can cause a measure of stress in our lives. These struggles and stressors can happen in our homes, the workplace, our neighborhoods, our nation and our world. It's so often true that our troubles don't just come and then quickly go but rather, they can seem to come and stay for a long time in one form or another. In one sense the troubles that we face are directly connected to the fact that we live in a broken and sinful world. Not unrelated to this, is the Bible's teaching that life in this world is one of ongoing spiritual warfare for God's people. That's just to say that Satan, his world system, and even our own sinful flesh war against spiritual growth in our lives.

Each time that you and I are facing difficulties we'll make choices about what, or who, we'll trust. It's at this time that the scriptures challenge us to ask ourselves: "Will we trust God because we believe that his ways are always best no matter the situation, or will we trust ourselves, ignoring God and supposing that we can resolve our difficulties in our own way?" There are certain truths about life in this broken world that we must acknowledge. For example: we'll face suffering; we'll have occasional doubts and fears; and we'll be tempted to worship the idols of our own hearts rather than worshiping God. And yet, when we fail to trust God, Satan, the enemy of our souls, gets the victory and we and even others we love will often be harmed.

British born Christian author, Iain Murray writes, "The terrible truth is that the devil wants me cursed—not blessed—and he knows the way that curse comes. It is by teaching men to trust in themselves, for scripture says, 'Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come' (Jeremiah 17:5-6)." Psalm 125 is generally acknowledged to be in the category of a corporate Psalm of confidence. It gives us clear teaching that's meant to elicit great encouragement and confidence in God because he is with and for his people always. This Psalm begins by teaching us of the stability of life that marks those who seek to place their trust in God.

"Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever." Mount Zion, in Old Testament times was the place where David fought with the Jebusites and captured this piece of land which, in scripture, is synonymous with Jerusalem (Isaiah 33:20). After becoming king, David made this place his royal residence (2 Samuel 5:6-9). The Ark of the Covenant was brought to Jerusalem by David and later placed in the Temple when it was built by his son, Solomon (1 Kings 8:1-11). Israel gathered for worship in Mount Zion because the LORD loved Zion (Psa. 78:68-69; 87:1-2). Zion was called the "city of our God" that he would establish "forever" (Psa. 48:1, 8). The author of this Psalm is

making an obvious comparison between the stability of Mount Zion, to the rock-solid stability of those who trust completely in the Covenant God of Holy Scripture.

When we come to the New Testament we read that Christians, “...have come to Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem....and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant....” (Hebrews 12:22-24) Christians live daily in what theologians call, “the already and not yet.” Our salvation is so secure that we’re spoken of as those who have already come to the “heavenly Jerusalem.” When we see Psalm 125 in all its glorious, redemptive-historical light we know that Christians will regularly experience the stability that this Psalm speaks of as we’re daily seeking to confidently place our trust in Jesus. Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of the Temple in Jerusalem that represented the presence of God with his people (John 2:19-21). We who are in Christ—the Church—are also called the Temple—the place where God dwells by his Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16). These and other biblical truths help us to rightly understand the language of “Mount Zion which cannot be moved, but abides forever.” Christians have all the stability we could ever need in Jesus Christ.

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