



LOVE SO AMAZING

DURING THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE Psa. 18:1-6,17

2022 THEME

Psa. 18:1 I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.

2 The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower.

3 I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

4 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

5 The sorrows of hell compassed me about: the snares of death prevented me.

6 In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God: he heard my voice out of his temple, and my cry came before him, *even* into his ears.

17 He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me.

This morning, we will consider...

LOVE SO AMAZING DURING THE CHALLENGES OF LIFE

Introduction

If there were no challenges during a lifetime, believers would not be privileged to learn what it means to have a Savior Who is “...my strength...my rock...my fortress...my deliverer...my God...my strength...my buckler...the horn of my salvation...my high tower.”

David learned by experience how amazing God’s love is, even when life was so challenging for him. As we observe this passage, we will find that fellowship with God is our greatest need and challenges are motivational tools that moves believers to a more intense time of fellowship.

I. LOVING THE DELIVERER

Psa. 18:1 **I will love thee, O LORD**, my strength.

2 The LORD *is* my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower.

A. The Determination of Affection – “I will love thee, O LORD...”

❖ The first thing mentioned in this passage is David’s love for the LORD!

❖ From David's teenage years, he learned that life had many life threatening challenges.

❖ As a youth, he killed a lion, bear, and warmongering giant.

1 Sam. 17:36 **Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear:** and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God.

❖ Each life threatening experience was preparation for the next challenge.

B. The Declaration of Assurance – “...my strength.”

- ❖ Each challenge intensified and gave David an opportunity to experience God’s deliverance.

1 Sam. 17:37 David said moreover, **The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.** And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

- ❖ The believer’s life should be one of perpetual warfare that leads to perpetual victories.

Prov. 4:18 But **the path of the just** is as the shining light, that **shineth more and more unto the perfect day.**

❖ If spiritual warfare is inevitable, then we must develop a mindset to please the Lord.

2 Tim. 2:3 Thou therefore **endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.**

4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; **that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.**

II. LONGING FOR DEFENSE

Psa. 18:3 I will call upon the LORD, *who is worthy* to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

A. The Source of Defense – “**I will call upon the LORD**, *who is worthy* to be praised...”

- ❖ Prayer is a believer’s first response when facing challenges in life.
- ❖ In the midst of challenging prayer, remember the Lord is worthy of praise.

B. The Surety of Deliverance – “...**so shall I be saved** from mine enemies.”

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive *them*, and ye shall have *them*.

❖ Prayer and faith unite the believer's heart for confidence to continue.

Jas. 1:3 Knowing *this*, that **the trying of your faith worketh patience.**

4 But let patience have *her* perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him **ask of God**, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

6 But **let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.** For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

8 A double minded man *is* unstable in all his ways.

III. LOATHING DEATH

A. The Impending Trouble, 18:4

Psa. 18:4 The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.

❖ The weakness of our humanity is a constant challenge to our faith.

Psa. 56:3 What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.

B. The Imminent Torment, 18:5

Psa. 18:5 The sorrows of hell compassed me about:
the snares of death prevented me.

- ❖ When a believer is surrounded (compassed) by death, there is only one direction to look and that is up – immediately look to heaven and our Savior!

Acts 7:55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, **looked up steadfastly into heaven**, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

IV. LOSING DISTRESS

Psa. 18:6 **In my distress I called upon the LORD**, and cried unto my God: **he heard my voice** out of his temple, and my cry came before him, *even* into his ears.

A. Distress is the Motivation for Seeking Deliverance through Prayer — **“In my distress I called upon the LORD, and cried unto my God...”**

Psa. 34:6 **This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him**, and saved him out of all his troubles.

B. Distress is the Means to Secure Defense and Protection – “...**he heard my voice** out of his temple, and my cry came before him, *even* into his ears.”

Psa. 18:17 **He delivered me** from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me.

1 Sam. 30:6 **And David was greatly distressed**; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: **but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.**

- ❖ Distress reveals our helplessness to ourselves.
- ❖ Distress forces believers to depend solely upon the Lord Jesus for strength.

Phil. 4:13 I can do all things **through Christ** which strengtheneth me.

- ❖ Love so amazing is embraced as we face the challenges of life.

**When we long for life
without difficulties,
remember that oaks
grow strong in
contrary winds
and diamonds are
made under pressure.**

~ Peter Marshall

Diamonds require temperatures of about **2200 degrees Fahrenheit**, and pressure of **about 725,000 pounds per square inch**.

<http://nguyen.dyndns.ws/how-much-pressure-is-needed-to-make-a-diamond/>

“The soul is placed in the body like a rough diamond, and must be polished, or the luster of it will never appear.”

— Daniel Defoe

<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/6862822-the-soul-is-placed-in-the-body-like-a-rough>

Job 23:10 But he knoweth the way that I take: **when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.**

1 Pet. 1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

7 That **the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold** that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

8 **Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:**

9 Receiving the end of your faith, *even* the salvation of *your* souls.

Diamonds and stalwart Christians are formed in a similar fashion — by heat and pressure. We undergo the heat of fiery trials and the pressures of the cares of this present world. The chipping away of our rough edges is necessary if we're to become a jewel of great value.

God, the Master artisan, sees the beauty buried deep within our lives. Often, through adversity, sorrow, and suffering, our undesirable traits are evident and we trust the Lord will sand off those rough edges. Our heavenly Father works carefully, as He envisions us as a precious jewel in His Kingdom.

"And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels..." Mal. 3:17

A diamond reflects natural light, while a Christian mirrors the Light of the *Son*. The beauty of both can be seen in their sparkle and the gorgeous colors refracted from each facet. <https://www1.cbn.com/devotions/diamonds-in-the-rough>

Conclusion

Psa. 18:30 **As for God, his way is perfect:** the word of the LORD is tried: he *is* a buckler **to all those that trust in him.**

31 For who *is* God save the LORD? or who *is* a rock save our God?

32 **It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.**

33 He maketh my feet like hinds' *feet*, and setteth me upon my high places. ...

46 **The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock;** and let the God of my salvation be exalted. ...

49 Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name.

Phil. 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that **he**
which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it*
until the day of Jesus Christ:

Phil. 2:13 For **it is God which worketh in you** both to
will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

**“THE MORE THE DIAMOND IS CUT THE
BRIGHTER IT SPARKLES; AND IN WHAT SEEMS
HARD DEALING, THERE GOD HAS NO END IN
VIEW BUT TO PERFECT HIS PEOPLE.”**

THOMAS GUTHRIE

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