

Psalms 043; The God Of My Strength

Ps 43:1 ¶ "Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man."

Why would David ask God to judge him? Because king David knew that he was a chosen vessel unto God, and that God had filled him with the Holy Spirit, from the time he was first anointed to be king over all Israel, seen in **1Sa 16:13 "Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward."** David knows that God's judgement will be fair and equitable. David knows that God has already forgiven him of his sins, and that God will find him faultless, because of the eternal forgiveness of his sins. How did he, and how do we, know this? Remember when Nathan the prophet confronted David about his sins of adultery and murder? Nathan told David in **2Sa 12:13 "And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die."** Hath is past tense, meaning that David's sin was already forgiven. David should have been put to death for both of these sins, but God forgave him. However, there would be a continual retribution against David as long as he lived: because he had given the enemy an occasion to blaspheme the name of God.

Surely, king David had many occasions in his life to pray this prayer. However, my mind is led to the time of Absalom's rebellion against his father king David. Absalom was indeed a deceitful and unjust man in all his life's practices recorded in the bible. Why then did David ask God **"and plead my cause against an ungodly nation"** as well as a deceitful and unjust man? Because, through the subtilty of Absalom, the hearts of Israel were turned away from David, which was the same as turning away from God. It meant turning to the worship of Absalom, which is idolatry. Israel had let the beguiling tongue of Absalom, and his winsome ways, turn them to worshipping him. Thus, they turned from God and desired their idol, Absalom, to be their king. This is why king David prays to God, **"O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man."**

Now, let's take these thoughts and this verse and make application to our own lives as children of God. We can pray with David: **"Judge me, O God,"** Because we know that eternal remission of our sins was wrought by Christ on the cross. We can pray with David: **"and plead my cause against an ungodly nation:"** because the world around us is a sinful and corrupt world that is filled with idolatry. We can pray with David: **"O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man."** which is the personage of the devil, who is a liar, who would have us to turn from God to the idolatrous worship of Satan. We are told in **Ge 3:1 "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made."** The devil's subtilty is what caused the fall of man into the eternal condemnation of death for sin, from which we are saved by the shed blood of Christ Jesus.

We know and understand all these things are true, because we are indwelt with the Holy Spirit, just as king David was. Thank you, King Jesus, for the promise in **1Jo 4:4 "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."** To which we say, Hallelujah! Amen!

2 "For thou art the God of my strength: why dost thou cast me off? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?"

David makes the declaration of his knowledge that God is his strength, then he asks: **"why dost thou cast me off? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?"** David is asking God, why am I in these circumstances in my life? Why have I had to abdicate my God given position on the throne of Israel and flee for my life before Absalom. Well, we know that it is because of God's continuing punishment of his sin of adultery and murder as seen in **2Sa 12:9-12; 9 "Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. 10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife. 11 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy wives before thine eyes, and give them unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun. 12 For thou didst it secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun."**

Now apply this verse to your own life as a child of God. We know that God is our strength, for Jesus tells us in **Joh 15:5 "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth**

much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." Do you ever feel like God has forsaken you, and you go about mourning because of the oppression of the devil, who keeps bringing up your past, or present, sins? Oh! How easily we fall into the slough of despondency and need the delivering power of God to be with us. Why does this happen? Because we take our eyes off of Jesus, and start looking at self, which is self-worship, which is idolatry.

However, we do have a particular promise from God to usward, seen in **Heb 13:5** ***"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."*** Therefore, in our darkest times of despair, and the multitude of temptations from the devil, we can always look to the light of Christ, which is in us, in the form of the Holy Spirit, and trust in the promise in **Jas 5:16** ***The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.***" That righteous man is Jesus in us.

3 "O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles."

David request of God to see the light of God's face once again, to embrace the truth of God once again, and let the light of God, and the truth of God, be in my life, as seen in **Ps 119:105** ***"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."*** David asks God to let thy light and thy truth bring me to you, and back to the tabernacle in Jerusalem, where I may worship you in Spirit and Truth, once again.

The same is true in our lives as children of God. When we are in the slough of despond, we may look inward and upward, calling unto the Jesus, whose light is within us, reflecting to us from His seat on the throne of God in heaven, and know that the ***"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."*** How do we know this? Because it is Jesus who is on the throne of God interceding for us. It is the Holy Spirit in us that offers prayers that are acceptable to God, seen in **Ro 8:27** ***"And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."***

Wherefore, the light of Christ, and the truth of Christ, lead us to the holy hill and the tabernacle of God. Remember, Christ died on the hill Golgotha, on our behalf, and wrought eternal remission of sins, and eternal life in Christ for us. Remember that the tabernacle was replaced by the temple, and that our bodies are the temple of God. Thus, we are to worship and praise our God all the time.

4 "Then will I go unto the altar of God, unto God my exceeding joy: yea, upon the harp will I praise thee, O God my God."

For David, to go to the altar of God was to go to the altar of sacrifice, and offer sin offerings, and thanksgiving offerings, for the remission of his sins, and to receive the blessings of God, as well as to return to the communal relationship of his personal relationship with God. David says that when this happens, my joy in my God will be great and I will praise and extol His great name on the earth.

The same is true for us. How? When we go to the cross of Christ, what do we find but the sacrifice for sins, upon the altar of the cross, made for us by Jesus. When we understand that Jesus gave his life, and Jesus shed His blood for us there, then we have exceeding joy in our great God, and we will praise God upon our God given harp, the voice, and address God as my God. Oh! What joy to be in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This is indeed a Hallelujah time!

There is one other thought here that comes to mind in **Ps 33:18-22**; **18 "Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; 19 To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. 20 Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield. 21 For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name. 22 Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee."** Verse **21** ***"For our heart shall rejoice in him."*** Think about this as we feel the billows of woe overflowing us and we sink in despondency. We are given a buoyancy in Jesus Christ that will always bring us back to the surface and let us get our breath again, so that we do not drown in the overwhelming flood. When we are lifted up by Christ, we can say ***"God is still with me! Hallelujah!"***

5 "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God."

David asks himself: ***"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me?"*** when you have the assurance of eternal life with God in your heart. David reminds himself: in the darkest of times, I

will hope in God. What is David hoping for? First, he is desirous to be returned to Jerusalem, and to visit the tabernacle of God, in worship and thanksgiving, and once again sit upon the throne that God covenanted to him. Secondly, David knows that if this is the end of my life on earth, I am looking forward to the time of the eternal resurrection of my body from the dead, and I will be with my God forever.

"For I shall yet praise him, who is the health (health means something saved eternally) **of my countenance** (our appearance), **and my God."** This reminds us of the light of our eternal salvation, which should be shining brightly upon our countenances, which is the evidence to those around us that we are different than the unregenerate. This then leads us to ask ourselves: Am I getting a healthy diet of the Word of God, which is the bread of life from heaven, which will keep our appearance filled with the light of Christ in us? Am I assembling with the saints of God regularly, so that we be of one mind as seen in **Php 2:1-2; 1 ¶ "If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, 2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."** Am I doing as seen in **Heb 10:24-25; 24 "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."** Am I growing in knowledge of the Word of God and not forsaking the Lord's Supper? as seen in **Ac 2:42 "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."** Are we, building up one another as seen in **Col 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."** This is one reason we have an hour of song service. A time of preparing our hearts to give thanks and praise to God, and to prepare us to receive the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ. If this is the summation of our spiritual lives, then we, like David, have the hope of the resurrection of our dead bodies, in the eternal resurrection of the dead in Christ, or our change if Christ returns before we die naturally. Then we can sing with the seraphim in New Heaven, the New Earth, and in the New Jerusalem, **"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!"** Hallelujah! Praise, ye the Lord!