

**“God’s Purpose Brings Him Praise”****Psalm 57:1-11**

Do you remember having fire drills in school?. The fire alarm would go off and you would hurriedly file out the door to the nearest exit where you would line up to be counted to make sure everyone was out. Then you would wait for the ‘all clear’ to reenter the building. For us, it always seemed to be during winter and standing out in the cold. I don’t ever recall that they happened during a test.

Truth is, we need those trial runs from time to time so we are prepared should something happen.

Likewise, we need to get into the habit of regularly going to the Lord in prayer when things are going well so we know that when a tragedy hits us, we instinctively turn to Him in a crisis. David had found that to be the case. A person after God’s own heart knows that when trouble comes, God is the one to turn to.

On more than one occasion David found God to be his rock, his fortress, his deliverer. So as we turn to **Psalm 57**, it is in the opening verse that we note first David’s hope in God is true.

**I. DAVID’S HOPE IN GOD IS TRUE – v. 1**

The heading of this psalm gives us a time stamp as to the occasion of David’s writing this psalm. It even gives us the tune for the song – “Do Not Destroy.” It doesn’t sound like a very happy melody. A classical piece comes to mind.

Bum bum bum bum

Bum bum bum bum

Bum bum bum bum

Bum bum bum bum

Bum bum, bum bum, bum bum

Do not destroy

Do not destroy

Do not destroy

Do not destroy

Do not destroy, destroy

(Key change)

Do not destroy

That’s just my guess, but I don’t really know.

The point is, David wanted the music to reflect the ominous nature of what he was experiencing at the time. The heading says it was when he was hiding in a cave. Scripture tells us of two such occasions.

The first was the cave of Adullam recorded for us in **I Samuel 22**. It was right after David escaped from Gath where he pretended to be insane. David’s parents met up with him and they fled to Moab where David asked the king if they could stay there awhile. Maybe they feared for their lives knowing that if the King was after their son, he might come after them hoping to flush out the fugitive.

**You might wonder why Moab?** Remember that his great-grandmother was Ruth who was from Moab. Maybe David was hoping some family ties through her would give them safe passage to settle down till things improved for them back in Israel.

A couple chapters later in **II Samuel 24**, we find David hiding in another cave. This cave is found in the Desert of En-Gedi. Saul was hot on his trail with 3,000 soldiers. The passage tells us they were in the Craggs of the Wild Goats. It was a rocky place, a desolate place. A place only fit for animals like wild goats. He and 10 of his men found a cave and hid themselves. If it’s true that fortune smiles on the favored, David could have been thanking his lucky stars, because his enemy, King Saul, came into the same cave for a little relief. David’s men urged him to strike down his enemy and be rid of him once and for all. Instead, David snuck up and cut a corner off the king’s robe with his own spear.

Some scholars lean to the cave in En-Gedi as the setting for this psalm. In either case, it is an occasion for David to show us our need that when we are in a crisis God’s purpose brings Him praise.

As with many of the other psalms David wrote, this psalm reminds us that, like David, we can hope in God because of His resources.

**A. God’s Resources for David – His Sympathy – v. 1a**

Last week we spoke about God's great mercy from **Psalm 51**. Mercy is simply defined as God not giving us what we deserve. In that Psalm, David recognized that because of his sin, he deserved God's judgment, but he also knew that God was merciful toward those who repent. David knew God was a just judge and would be right in judging him according to his sin, but he also knew that God was sympathetic and loving. So he sought God's forgiveness, something he was granted and grateful for.

In our Psalm David is again asking for God's mercy, but not because of something he had done wrong. David was calling on God to look down on his plight and deliver him from the trouble. Send relief.

We might even say that while it was an enemy who was relentlessly pursuing him, David was aware that everything that happened to him, was ultimately filtered through God who was allowing it.

Joseph understood that principle when his brothers came with a story about how when their father died, that he shouldn't hold what they did to him against them. His response is a good lesson for us that when someone does something bad to us we need to remind ourselves that while they meant it for evil, God meant it for good. (**Genesis 50:20**)

Then there is Job whom God allowed the Devil to do some pretty horrendous things to show Job's integrity and faith. Early on Job had to rebuke his wife for speaking like a foolish woman inciting him to curse God. Job understood that God also allows trouble for our good and God's glory.

Paul was someone who knew well not just in principle, but also in practice that all things work for good to those who love God. (**Romans 8:28**)

The same is true by what James tells us that we are to consider it a joy when we fall into various trials because they serve to mature our faith. (**Jam. 1:3-4**)

David was facing yet another trial. He was on the run, and he called out to God whom he knew to be his only hope. He knew that God was sympathetic to his plight and so asked for God to be merciful. So if all things work together for good, then we need to

understand the sovereign hand of God in allowing them to happen, knowing that they are meant for our good and His glory, knowing that they will grow our faith and our spiritual character. David's hope in God encourages us to have hope in God also. He is depending on God to see him through the trial. David was right where He knew God wanted Him.

Warren Wiersbe writes: "**Better to be in the will of God in a cave than out of His will in a palace.**"

Think for a moment about Steve's favorite poem, *Footprints* and that lone set of footprints in the sand which are God's as He carries you through the trial.

Jesus said in **Matthew 11:28-30** that if we are weary and burdened, bring it to Him to carry it for you. When we give it to Him, we experience His rest and peace.

David calls out to God in whom he has hope that he might receive some sympathy. The reason for his hope is in the second half of **verse 1**. If God's resource was His sympathy, David also sees God as a refuge – He is a shelter.

## **B. God's Refuge For David – His Shelter – v. 1b**

From our study in the Psalms, we have seen time and again David's constant reference to God as a refuge, a shelter, a fortress, an anchor.

Earlier, the shepherd king would write these words "**Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.**" (**Psalm 20:7**)

**What is it you tend to trust in?**

**Where do you usually go for help?**

Horses can get tired.

The wheels on chariots can fall off.

David is saying that the tangible things, the earthly things, the things that we tend to rely on because we can see them, will all in some way and at some time fail us.

Money runs out.

Friends aren't there when you need them or only when it's convenient or until they have their own crisis. They aren't dependable as much as they like to think they are.

As we have said before, "**God is an ever-present, always dependable help in time of trouble.**" We

can trust Him because He is always trustworthy.

**(Psalm 46:1)**

When I speak of God as David's hope, our hope, it is not with the idea of wishful thinking but someone in whom we can have the utmost confidence. David is so confident, he states in **v. 1** that to the very core of his being, his soul, he looks to God as His refuge.

The Bible refers to this confidence as faith. David found refuge in God because of his strong faith. His faith sheltered him in the storms he was facing. His hope in God is true.

Next, we see David's help from God is tremendous.

## **II. DAVID'S HELP FROM GOD IS TREMENDOUS – vv. 2-3**

David was facing trouble in the cave and knew God could help because He was the God Most High, the all-powerful, sovereign Creator God. He recognized that God had a determination for him.

### **A. God's Determination For David – v. 2**

**Are you aware that God has a plan for you and at times it includes trials? Do you know that His plan is always for our good and His glory?** David believed that God had a purpose in the cave and he looked to God to fulfill that purpose, to complete that plan.

Jeremiah had to remind Israel that God had plans for them even in their deportation to Babylon and the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple. They were plans to prosper them and not harm them, plans for a hope and a future (**Jeremiah 29:11**). They were plans to draw them back to Him to seek Him with all their heart. Plans for them to find Him in the bottom of their trouble.

David knew that God was using the hardships he was going through to bring about His purpose. The KJV uses the word perform. It means to fulfill, to make perfect, to bring an end.

Paul said in **Philippians 1:6** that what God started He would complete. God has plans for each one of us that He will fulfill in our lives to grow our faith making us like Him in character. We may not like some of the plans He has for us, but the purpose again is for our

good and His glory. As Wiersbe said it's better to be in the cave and in His will than in the palace and out of His will. Let's learn to accept God's determination for us. David did.

Second, we see God's deliverance of David.

### **B. God's Deliverance Of David – v. 3a**

In order for God to bring about the end result of what He has determined for us, He sends His very best resources. He doesn't hold back. Whatever He deems appropriate to help us is what He sends. He sent 10 plagues to Egypt to deliver Israel from bondage.

He sent a message by way of an enemy camp to calm the fears of Gideon.

He sent supernatural strength to Samson to bring down a pagan temple and destroy a nation.

He sent a fire from heaven to consume the sacrifice of Elijah.

He sent an angel to close the mouths of lions.

He sent an angel to walk in the middle of a fire with three brave men defying a king.

He sent a host of angels in chariots to surround an enemy.

They were all different ways God sent from heaven to deliver people in times of distress.

David realized that when he cried out to God for help, He sent the very best He had. At this point in the verse David adds that musical notation – Selah, which means stop and give that some thought, let it sink in, let it comfort you. Know that what God sends you is the very best.

When Israel was facing the Philistines along with their champion, chirping about how great he was, God sent the very best He had.

He didn't send some highly decorated soldier with lots of military experience.

He didn't send some battle hardened, combat ready soldier trained in the art of hand-to-hand combat with knowledge of all kinds of weapons. Instead, He sent a teenager, someone the giant of Gath both despised and mocked. **We might wonder how this youth could be the best God had to offer to deliver Israel?** The answer comes from David himself: **"the**

**Lord will deliver me.” (I Samuel 17:37)** Even as a youth he had tremendous faith in God. The giant came with sword and spear, but David came with something greater, he came in the power of the Lord Almighty (v. 45).

In the margin of my study Bible I wrote this question: **What giants am I facing today? Are you trusting God to send His best?**

As David wrote this psalm, maybe he had a thought that took him back that moment of facing Goliath that God sends His salvation from heaven, that God sends His very best to help us. **So are we going to trust in chariots or are we going to trust in the name of the Lord?**

**Psalm 118:8 “It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in men.”**

And the greatest means of deliverance God sends us is His only Son who died in our place to save us.

**Why would He do that for us?**

**Why did He do that for David?**

The answer is also in **verse 3**.

### **C. God’s Devotion To David – v. 3b**

We don’t have to look any further than to God’s great love for us. That’s what David did. Remember that God’s plans for you aren’t to harm you but to help you. God acts toward you and me out of His great love for us.

**John 3:16** – God loves the people of the world so much He sent His only Son so that those who believe won’t perish but have everlasting life.

**Romans 5:8** – God showed His great love for us in that even though we were His enemies He sent Christ to die for us.

Only God would do that. Only a God who loves us could do that. He does that because He is faithful to us and faithful to His word.

**Lamentations 3:22-23** speaks to the three attributes of God that David mentions in this Psalm – His mercy, His compassion or love, and His faithfulness.

God delivered David out of His love and faithfulness for His servant.

Believe that God is faithful to you.

Believe that God loves you.

You need only to look as far as the cross to see the depth of His love for you. It is there that He will save you.

David found that his help from God was tremendous and would experience being saved.

Then in **verses 4 and 6** we see that David’s honesty with God is telling.

### **III. DAVID’S HONESTY WITH GOD IS TELLING – vv. 4, 6**

Be honest with God about how you feel. Don’t sugar coat it, don’t soft pedal it, don’t tiptoe around it. “God I’m hurting. It’s awful. I don’t know how much more I can take. I need Your help.” Tell it like it is.

We see in **verse 4** that David’s desperation is real.

#### **A. David’s Desperation Is Real – v. 4**

There are some things I see from pictures of the wild that I don’t like. They’re called teeth. Whether it’s a lion or a bear or a tiger or a crocodile, their teeth scare me and rightly so. I don’t even like it when a dog bares its teeth and growls. But when I go to the zoo, I don’t mind seeing those teeth in that setting. As long as there are bars between me and them, I can walk around without any fear.

David likens the ferocity of his enemy with vicious teeth. To him it was like being in the middle of lions. Remember that he had some experience facing lions. His enemy was a ravenous beast. His enemy was like a starved animal ready to pounce and devour. David found himself in a desperate situation seemingly hemmed in from every side. Think about a pack of wolves circling their prey, teeth bared ready to strike and that’s the image David gives facing his enemy. He’s honest with the Lord about the crisis he is facing.

Then in **verse 6** he says that his distress is real.

#### **B. David’s Distress Is Real – v. 6**

If the menacing nature of their appearance wasn’t bad enough, David continues by telling God what

they have done to try and catch him. He says they had spread out a net and dug a pit. Again, if we accept that this psalm is when David hid in the cave at En-Gedi, we read in **I Samuel 23** that they were closing in on him fast. What David is saying in **verse 6** is that they were on top of him, and he didn't have anywhere to go. He was feeling the squeeze.

Let me remind you again of something I have said before from the words of Betsy ten Boom that *“there is no pit so deep that God isn't deeper still.”*

You may feel like you're in the pit, that the net is closing in, but remember that God is there with you. Be honest with God about your desperation and your distress. Maybe this song will encourage you have a little talk with Jesus about your trouble.

*I may have doubts and fears,  
my eye be filled with tears  
But Jesus is a friend who watches day and night  
I go to him in prayer, He knows my every care  
And just a little talk with my Jesus make it right.*

*(Now let us) have a little talk with Jesus  
(Let us) tell Him all about our troubles  
(He will) hear our faintest cry  
(He will) answer by and by  
(And when you) feel a little prayer wheel turning  
(And you) will know a little fire is burnin'  
(You will) find a little talk with Jesus makes it right.*  
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That's what God did for David because it says that his enemies fell into their own trap. He was delivered. Consider then that David's honor of God is touching.

#### **IV. DAVID'S HONOR OF GOD IS TOUCHING** – vv. 5, 10-11

When you know that God loves you, when you know that God is faithful, when you know that God is filled with mercy, what is left but to praise God. That's what we see in **verse 5** and repeated in **verse 11** for emphasis. In these verses David magnified God.

##### **A. David Magnified God – vv. 5, 11**

David wanted God to be lifted up. To exalt is to hold someone in high regard, to be in awe of them and speak highly of them. It is to raise in honor.

Isaiah witnessed angels doing that around the throne in **Isaiah 6** as they continually honored God with their praise.

John had a similar privilege as he saw and heard the angels, the four creatures and the 24 elders falling down and worshipping God saying **“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power.” (Revelation 4:11)**

Later, he would see a vast host of people from every nation, tribe and tongue giving God praise.

**Revelation 7:10, 12 “Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb...Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!”**

Even in all his troubles, David saw God as someone who deserved to be lifted up, whose glory should fill the whole earth.

David honored God not only by magnifying Him, he also marveled at God.

##### **B. David Marveled At God – v. 10**

Once again, David speaks of God's love and faithfulness, two attributes of God that should give us comfort and confidence in His unchanging character that move Him to help us in our need. When we begin to see God in all His glory as David did and rightfully praise Him as He deserves, we will marvel at who He is and what He does.

Warren Wiersbe notes **“If we are praying, trusting, and praising the Lord, we should have no problem exalting His name in all that we say, do, and suffer.”** David honored God as he magnified Him and marveled about Him.

Let me close with a final point in which we see that David's heart for God is tender.

##### **V. DAVID'S HEART FOR GOD IS TENDER – vv. 7-9**

Charles Spurgeon so aptly writes **“Let all the music with which I am familiar be well attuned for the service of praise. No sleepy verses and weary notes**

shall be heard from me. I will thoroughly arouse myself for this high employ.”

In other words, don't hold back when it comes to praising God. David had a heart for God that released itself in his praise of God. We see it first in **verse 7** where we notice that David had a persevering heart for God.

### A. David Had A Persevering Heart For God – v. 7

In spite of the hardships he was facing, his heart remained steadfast in faith toward God that led to his singing. Warren Wiersbe writes that “**a steadfast heart is one that is fixed on the Lord's promises and not wavering between doubt and faith.**”

James says a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways. But a steadfast heart is a heart of faith, a steadfast heart is a heart at peace knowing that God's purposes for me will bring about my good and His glory. A steadfast heart is a confident heart knowing that God's plan is perfect even if I can't see it or don't know it. A steadfast heart is a heart that is fixed on Christ the author and finisher of our faith so that in whatever trials and troubles come our way we will not become weary or lose heart (**Hebrews 12:1-3**).

In 1897 Henry Petrie wrote a song that echoes for me the very thought of what David conveys here.

Stormy the night and the waves roll high,  
Bravely the ship doth ride,  
Hark! while the lighthouse bell's solemn cry  
Rings o'er the sullen tide.  
There on the deck see two lovers stand,  
Heart to heart beating, and hand to hand;  
Tho' death be near, she knows no fear  
While at her side is one of all most dear.

David is in the middle of a storm. But he is not afraid because God is there holding his hand.

Paul wrote about the sting of death as nothing the believer needs to fear because we have victory in the Lord Jesus Christ. He is standing there firmly holding us. (**I Corinthians 15:55-57**)

David had a persevering heart for God. He also had a pleased heart with God.

### B. David Had A Pleased Heart With God – v. 8

David wanted his being to wake up and give God praise. Whether with his voice or an instrument, he wanted to praise the Lord. David wanted his worship of the Lord to wake up the dawn. He couldn't wait to start the day praising God. He wasn't going to wait for the sun to come up. **“Come on dawn, wake up, let's worship God.”** David expressed his joy at God's deliverance. Open up your heart and begin your day with praise.

There is one last thing we see about David's tender heart for God. David had a proclaiming heart about God.

### C. David Had A Proclaiming Heart About God – v. 9

Don Francisco wrote a song about the time Jesus healed a little girl who was dying. He went with the father to his home and touched the girl so that she was healed. He then told the dad that if anyone should ask, don't say a word. But the dad couldn't keep quiet. He had to tell somebody:

I got to tell somebody  
I got to tell somebody  
I got to tell somebody  
What Jesus did for me

You know, He gave me life  
When all hope was dead  
When there was grief  
He bought joy instead  
Got to tell somebody  
What Jesus did for me

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David had to tell somebody what God had done for him. He wanted the nations and the people of those nations to hear what God had done for him.

**Do we have a tender heart for God, one that is persevering for God, one that is pleased with God, on that is proclaiming about God?**

God has a purpose in your troubles to bring Him glory. It's for your good and it's to share with others. Let them see that even when you are in trouble, you can still praise the Lord.