

When God Answers Our Prayers

Psalm 30:1-12

A psalm. A song. For the dedication of the temple. Of David.

¹ *I will exalt you, LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me.*

² *LORD my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me.*

³ *You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of the dead; you spared me from going down to the pit.*

⁴ *Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful people; praise his holy name.*

⁵ *For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.*

⁶ *When I felt secure, I said, "I will never be shaken."*

⁷ *LORD, when you favored me, you made my royal mountain stand firm; but when you hid your face, I was dismayed.*

⁸ *To you, LORD, I called; to the Lord I cried for mercy:*

⁹ *"What is gained if I am silenced, if I go down to the pit?*

Will the dust praise you?

Will it proclaim your faithfulness?

¹⁰ *Hear, LORD, and be merciful to me; LORD, be my help."*

¹¹ *You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,*

¹² *that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. LORD my God, I will praise you forever.*

God Has Lifted Me

¹ *I will exalt you, LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me.*

² *LORD my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me.*

³ *You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of the dead; you spared me from going down to the pit.*

1. The psalmist praises the Lord for delivering him from troubles and sicknesses. ‘*God has lifted me up*’ is a shout of praise that will resound throughout eternity. In every situation, God will deliver His people; even when we face death, we can confidently rejoice because of the promise of resurrection. **God will lift us up.**
2. God is also our Healer. Nothing in this world can damage us permanently. All things are being renewed in Jesus Christ.
3. God has delivered us from the power of sin and death. The power of God which resurrected Jesus from the dead is at work in our lives. As much as there are trials and tribulations in life, our story will always end with celebration and thanksgiving.

Ephesians 1:18-21

¹⁸ *I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,*
¹⁹ *and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength*²⁰ *he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms,*²¹ *far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.*

4. Reflect on the things that God has done for you. What does it tell you about God? How does it help you understand God's work of deliverance?

The Momentary and The Eternal

⁴ *Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful people; praise his holy name.*

⁵ *For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favour lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.*

1. The psalmist invites the faithful to join him in praise. He knows for certain that they too have experienced God the same way.
2. The psalms do not only speak of God, but they give us a glimpse of what takes place in the hearts of God's people. We see how suffering affects them and how they experience God's redemptive work. There are moments of suffering but the night passes and '*rejoicing comes in the morning*'. The psalmist always anticipates a time of celebration and speaks with hope because God is faithful. He is steadfast in love.
3. The focus of praise is on God's Holy Name. We tend to think of the Holiness of God as something that separates us from God. Yes, God stands apart from us because He is Holy. But, there is another aspect to His Holiness that moves Him to reach out to us, making a way for us to enter His Holy Presence. There is so much beauty and grace in His Holiness and that is why we worship Him with reverence and awe. "Hallowed be His name!"

Psalms 96:9

⁹ *Worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth.*

4. Not many people like to be chastised. The psalmist is aware of his failures and mindful that his sin could be the reason for his suffering. He knows God will chasten him because God is His Good Shepherd. Those moments may seem to last a lifetime, but they are only momentary. What remains for a lifetime is the favour of God.

Favour: pleasure, delight, desire, will, acceptance.

When attributed to God, the term expresses the divine goodwill which God extends to humanity as He sees fit. (CWSB Dictionary)

"Since the desire of God is to make men partakers of His holiness, the root of chastisement is love, and hours of sorrow are not interruptions of the continuous favour which fills the life." (H. Marshall)

Only God

⁶ *When I felt secure, I said, "I will never be shaken."*

⁷ *LORD, when you favored me, you made my royal mountain stand firm; but when you hid your face, I was dismayed.*

1. The psalmist felt secure because of the prosperity he enjoyed.
 - The Hebrew word translated as 'secure' denotes the meaning of being at ease, peaceable, prosperous, care-free. It refers to a state and attitude of being undisturbed or heedless. (CWSB)
 - The psalmist was presumptuous when he believed that his prosperity was a sign that all is well with him. Sadly, this is what many Christians believe. They presume their comfort and prosperity is a sign that all is well between them and God. Such an attitude only leads to pride and complacency.
2. God confronts the presumption. This made the psalmist realize that his confidence must stand on God alone. The focus must be on the Giver and not the gifts.

A Cry for Mercy

⁸ *To you, LORD, I called; to the Lord I cried for mercy:*

⁹ *"What is gained if I am silenced, if I go down to the pit?*

Will the dust praise you? Will it proclaim your faithfulness?

¹⁰ *Hear, LORD, and be merciful to me; LORD, be my help."*

1. David now cries for God's mercy and grace. Only God's grace and mercy will suffice. This is what God wants to hear from us.
2. The psalmist finds his place and he boldly argue, "God, will dust praise you? Will it proclaim your faithfulness?" He is made to worship and testify about God's goodness.

You Turned My Wailing Into Dancing

¹¹ *You turned my wailing into dancing;*

you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

¹² *that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent.*

LORD my God, I will praise you forever.

1. Only God can turn our mourning into dancing. The brokenness and grief we experience in life will be transformed into joy in His presence. This the God's amazing work displayed at the cross.
2. The psalmist filled with joy and gratitude, commits to praise God forever. God has given him the place of joy and celebration. There is worship because the Lord has brought joy into our hearts.

Prayer Items

- Thanksgiving and Worship
- Trusting God for deliverance
- Grace during seasons of chastisement
- Humility before God

Church

- Unity: Growing in Love and Holiness
- Open doors to reach out to our community
- Renovations; Guidance on restarting services and ministries
- Outpouring of the Holy Spirit
- Guidance for the coming season
- Leadership
- Salvation of souls

Covid-19 Pandemic

- Deliverance
- Protection
- Grace and favour upon foreigners, the poor and the vulnerable

Nation

- Leaders: Wisdom and Understanding
- Unity in the Body of Christ
- Revival