

Sunday 29th May – Waiting Patiently for the Lord.

Psalm 40.

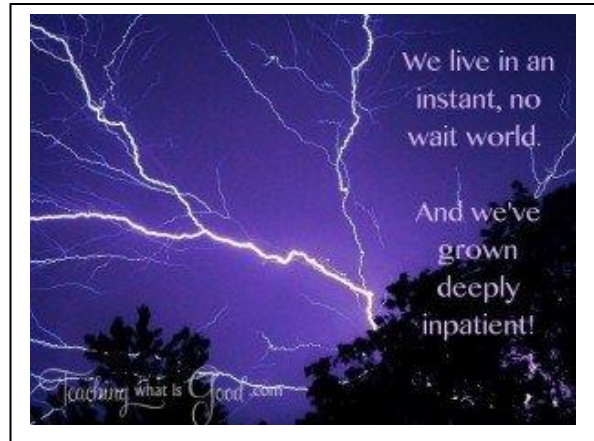
Have you ever felt swamped and overwhelmed by circumstances, like you seem to be the only one walking around with what seems to be a black cloud hovering above your head?

David felt exactly that way too. He describes it as being in the pits, feeling like his feet were stuck in mud and no matter how hard he tried, he couldn't get out.

David's stated he was surrounded and couldn't see a clear way out. He recognised what was contributing to his circumstances – he had a noxious attitude; he was surrounded by negative people and he had forgotten to daily call on God for help.

Do you find it hard to wait and trust in God? It's like you pray – dear God, please give me more patience – and hurry it up.

We live in a society that says that we need to see results and we need to see them now. We go to a fast-food restaurant and expect the food to come out quickly and efficiently. We go to the shops and expect the place to have the products we need. But somewhere along the way, life throws us curveballs. We don't get what we always want in life. We don't see the results we are looking for. We ask ourselves: "Is life worth it?" This is the setting where David was – sitting in a desolate place, thinking there was no way out.



Waiting for God to help us is not easy but David did and God lifted him out of his despair, set his feet on solid ground and put a new song of praise in his mouth.

Because we are going to run into all kinds of difficulties in life, we need to trust in God's love and protection.

Immersed within Scripture are stories of the struggles that people have gone through and they are no different than for us today – joy, sadness, mourning, sin, anger, confession, forgiveness and other experiences that touches lives so deeply.

What can we learn from David that we can use today to help us through our troubles?

1. Trust God with our prayers

David trusted God with his prayers and waited patiently for God to answer him. God wants us to call on Him in times of trouble, but we need to learn to trust Him, and know that God always answers our prayers in just the right time and just the right way. As we trust in God with our prayers, we also need to trust Him with our praise.

When you have Christ in your heart something changes inside of you, and a melody starts to form that you can't really control. It is unlike any other belief system."

Like that song of old – In my heart there rings a melody, there rings a melody of heavenly harmony. In my heart there rings a melody, there rings a melody of Love. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, sweetest name I know, fills my every longing, keeps me singing as I go.

2. Trust God with our inabilities

There are times we need to ask someone else for help. Yet we have to be very careful who we choose as many people have their own agendas. It is important to trust God first. He should be the first Person we ask when we run into trouble. Why is this? Because God is reliable, He has proven His worth by His works. Yet how often do we ask others before we come before God in prayer and seek His guidance?

3. Trust God with our obedience

Jesus had the right attitude when He came into the world. An attitude of understanding and doing God's will and He went to the cross with this intention. Just as Christ was obedient to God, we are reminded to be obedient to God also. When we ask God for help, He will tell us a way to deal with our troubles. Whether it is to confess sin, deal with someone or something, or pay attention, we need to obey God when He speaks.

God doesn't want our sacrifices because Jesus has satisfied God's wrath on our behalf. God wants a relationship with us, where we spend time doing His will.

4. Trust God with our testimony

How many times have you found a bargain, a great café, great place to visit and you just had to share it as soon as you could, and recommend it to someone? How often do you share with others what God has done for you? David said he would speak of God's faithfulness and salvation to those around him.

God is so awesome that we cannot keep it hidden – we want to tell other people what God has done for us. If God's faithfulness has changed

your life, wouldn't you wish to share this with others so they may experience that same abundance and joy? The sad fact is that Christians tend to conceal their testimony.

5.Trust God with our insecurities

God's love and truth will guard us against things that make us feel insecure, as God is faithful to His promises. When we feel threatened or in danger, we may resort to sin to solve the problem. David knew that instead of resorting to sin, he should place his trust in God. It is important to trust God with our time, prayers, testimony, physical and emotional needs. When we have troubles, we need to go to Someone we can trust. God is the most secure Person Who can handle our troubles.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, we offer our mouths to you, that we might speak your truth in the world.

Lord, we offer our minds to you, that we might meditate on your word.

Lord, we offer our hands to you, that we might serve your people and those in the world.

Lord, we offer our hearts to you, that our worship would focus solely upon you.

Lord, we offer our feet to you, that we might bring the good news of the gospel to the ends of the earth.