



Christian Life Fellowship

Becoming fully devoted followers of Christ



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PSALM 91:15

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Introduction:

Psalm 91:15 - **When they call on me, I will answer; I will be with them in trouble. I will rescue them and honor them.** The word ‘trouble’ means adversity, affliction, anguish, distress and tribulation. It covers quite a wide variety of scenarios.

I. Uncontrollable life circumstances may cause us trouble.

When someone is afflicted, they are miserable. Because of the affliction, the person may be depressed mentally or emotionally as well as having physical misery. Usually this is brought about because of losses that we have experienced or because of hurts that we have endured. Sometimes people who have illnesses suffer this way. When one is anguished, they are troubled or perplexed by their circumstances. One often experiences this type of anguish at the sudden death of a loved one, at the sudden news of a terminal illness, at the dramatic deterioration of their business.

This word ‘trouble’ can also indicate tribulation which means to be put in a tight place or a place of persecution. There are people who are persecuted for their faith. There are people outside of America who suffer for their faith. They are tortured, they are ostracized, they are ridiculed, they are imprisoned, they are shunned all because of their faith. When we find ourselves in these types of situations, it is difficult for us to see the bigger picture. Questions of ‘why’ come to the forefront of our minds. Where is God? What did I do wrong? When will relief come? When we are in trouble, we often have to rely on a source other than ourselves to help us get out of trouble.

II. Unwise decisions may cause us trouble.

Trouble is not always something that comes to us as a result of wrong actions or decisions. There is trouble that we can get into by making unwise decisions. For example, if I deficit spend, like our government, without regard for the limits of my resources, guess what, I will bring trouble on myself. There are times though when trouble comes our way even when we make good decisions, even when we do things God's way. It is in those times as well that God says, "I will be with you." To have someone stand with you in the middle of trouble and not run away is awesome.

I want you to write down on your bulletin one trouble you have faced in your life when you didn't know you would make it through that trouble. Maybe you currently are in the middle of that trouble.

Take a moment right now and write it down. Maybe you were out of work, or going through a relationship crisis, or you were tempted beyond what you thought you could resist. Maybe you were sick or saddened by the death of a loved one.

III. Daniel's response to trouble.

There is the story of a young man who lived centuries ago. He was a Hebrew man, who loved God and had been captured by foreigners and taken away from everything he loved and was familiar with. In spite of all that, he remained true to God and his faith. He did not compromise and give in to the pressures around him and God never left him.

He was liked by the king and was promoted as a leader of the leaders. Because of that, many of the leaders were jealous of him and schemed for ways they could trap him. Their scheme was in relation to Daniel's faith. These men knew Daniel prayed. They knew he had a relationship

with God and decided that if they were going to catch him, it would have to be with a law they devised about practicing his faith. That was the only fault they could find with him.

How encouraging it would be if the only fault people today could find with us who follow Christ, would be our faith and relationship to God. Do you find it odd that for those who follow Christ, a major area where we experience tribulation, trials, anguish and distress comes at the point of our faith? This is a major reason why God wants to reassure us that He will stand with us in trouble so we will not abandon our faith and relationship with Him at those times in our lives.

Daniel was in trouble from all natural points of view. He was not liked by 120 satraps. The law they had devised that involved his faith had been broken. Three times a day, Daniel continued to pray to God, even after he knew the law had been signed. As a result he had to face the den of lions alone. It certainly meant that his physical life was on the line. There was no changing the law; there was no appeal. Daniel was guilty and had to face this situation.

The Lord sent his angel to keep the mouths of the lions shut and they did not come near Daniel or harm him in any way. The protection of God is incredible. When we are in trouble, God promises to stand by us and protect us. The outcome of Daniel's experience was that the king realized he could not save Daniel from the peril or danger and possibility of death by changing the law, so he said, "Only your God can save you Daniel."

After the night is over and the king goes early to check on Daniel, he makes a decree: **Daniel 6:26-27 - I decree that everyone throughout my kingdom should tremble with fear before the God of Daniel. For he is the living God, and he will endure forever. His kingdom will never be destroyed, and his rule will never**

end. He rescues and saves his people; he performs miraculous signs and wonders in the heavens and on earth. He has rescued Daniel from the power of the lions.

IV. God stands with us in times of trouble.

Psalm 9:9-10 - The LORD is a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. Those who know your name trust in you, for you, O LORD, have never abandoned anyone who searches for you. Psalm 32:7 - For you are my hiding place; you protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of victory. Psalm 37:39 - The LORD saves the godly; he is their fortress in times of trouble.

When David writes about The Lord being the fortress of our life, I have a mental picture I cannot shake from my mind. I was born and raised in upstate New York. The city where I lived as a child was a fort at one time for early settlers. In fact, one can go to the center of town and find homes that were built in the 1600's. It is quite amazing that they still are standing, but part of the reason for that is because they built a stockade or a fortress all around the early settlement.

The stockade was built in 1705 as a temple stockade and rebuilt in 1735 of heavy hewn timbers set on a stonewall ten feet high. The fort itself was one hundred feet square with a blockhouse at each corner, twenty-four feet square and twenty feet high. The stockade was capable of holding three hundred men.

One entered the fort by a large swinging gate, raised like a drawbridge. Six cannon commanded the approaches from all sides. The

Conclusion:

The promise God makes to be with us in trouble is a promise that He intends to keep and one that brings us security. We are not alone! Say it with me this morning. "I am not alone. God is with me! In trouble He is my fortress and stronghold." Whatever you encounter this week, remember that God is

open square area within was used as a parade and drill ground. When the enemy would come toward the settlers, or the troops needed a break from battle, they could go to the fort and find protection and safety. This is the picture we get from Psalm 91. When you are in a battle, or you are in a place of adversity, affliction, distress, anguish, tribulation, God will be with you. He will surround your life like a fort. He will be a refuge, a place of safety, protection, rest and fortification.

A true friend does not abandon the friendship when trouble comes. If you are in trouble, a true friend will stand with you through the trouble. They will not turn away in their friendship because of your trouble. This is exactly the promise and commitment that God makes to those who have developed a friendship, a relationship with Him. He will stand with them in trouble. **Psalm 9:9 - The LORD is a shelter for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble. Psalm 18:2 - The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the strength of my salvation, and my stronghold.**

The words 'refuge, and fortress' in these verses, speak of a place that is lofty, inaccessible, a high place for defense, one that cannot be gotten to easily. God Himself is that place.

I am not sure how this truth strikes you this morning, but it gives me a great sense of safety, security, a great sense of peace, of comfort, and confidence. Regardless of what trouble I find myself in, no matter the battle I am called on to stand in, no matter the adversity, or affliction, He is my place of rest, protection and refuge. I find my help in Him.

with you. My challenge to you this week is to live your life in that mode. Live your life like God is with you.

Psalm 18:2 - God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble. Act in the knowledge this week that He is with you. Especially if you are in trouble, if your world has fallen apart, HE IS WITH YOU. Cling to that truth. The most powerful truth we can stand on is the truth of God's word. "You are my hiding place;" **Psalm 32:7.**