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“From the Pastor Sheri’s Desk”

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When I felt secure, I said, “I will never be shaken.”

Psalm 30:6 truly describes the way we often think. **NLT**: *When I was prosperous I said, “Nothing can stop me now!”* **KJV**: *In my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved.* David was like we often are during the good times. Everything was going so well, he assumed nothing bad would happen ever again. You can imagine all of the comforts that surrounded someone like David, and these made him feel so secure that it seemed as if they could never be taken from him, or as if he had nothing to fear.

If we’re honest, we can relate to this. Maybe this is how you felt not so long ago. Remember last December 31, 2019, - about 11:59 pm? “10-9-8-7-2020 is going to be a banner year! 6-5-4-Yes, I feel secure! 3-2-1 I will never be shaken! Happy New Year!” After all - these were the days we were hearing about our *booming economy, record low unemployment* - “Happy Days are here again!” The future is so bright - “I have a great job!” “I have so many friends!” “I love seeing them at church every week!” We couldn’t imagine a time of reverses on any of these. Right? Times like these can cause us to place our confidence in ourselves, and worse, to forget our dependence on God. Wayne Gerard Trotman is quoted as saying, “Nature has a myriad of weapons to combat human arrogance.”

Adam Clarke, “Peace and prosperity had seduced the heart of David.”

Another commentator remarked of the danger of feeling secure... “...*Good men are lulled into false security by easy times*” So before we know it, God in His wisdom, sovereignty, and grace provides a lesson for us...

Proverbs 23:5, “Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky like an eagle.”

‘But I don’t have any riches!’ you may be saying. Well, first of all statistically, compared to the rest of the world, we as Americans do indeed have riches. And how easy it is to allow the comforts we enjoy to become our security instead of placing our trust, and our dependence upon God. Our gracious God uses these trials that come and hopefully we are taught valuable lessons that teach us how easily these things can be swept away. And just like that we have an opportunity to gain an awesome perspective shift (**if we will see it**). If we’re paying attention, it hits us that we have placed our security in the wrong place.

I cannot recall a time when we have experienced more vivid examples of the dramatic changes that life can bring than in these past 3 months. “Happy New Year!” Enter *global pandemic* the likes of which most of us haven’t seen in our lifetimes. But wait, there’s more! Add to the pandemic the drastic *economic downturn*, and at the time when we were thinking we were beginning to come out of that, enter *racial unrest* that make the 1960s pale in comparison. But in His grace, I believe God is revealing to us how dependent we are on Him. We will never find our joy or our security in anyone but Him.

So - how did David survive this? How did he learn the lesson God was trying to teach him? Verse 8 reveals what David did, and what we need to do as well if we are ever to learn what God desires to teach us...

Psalm 30:8, “I cried unto thee O LORD; and unto the LORD I made supplication.”

When trauma came and everything David counted on was taken away - he did the best thing possible. David called upon the Lord. This is **key**.

Oswald Chambers, "*Prayer does not fit us for the greater work, prayer is the greater work.*"

There are traumas in life - *ill health, financial reverses, relationship issues, pain*, etc. **David was not driven from God by these, but he was driven to Him**. It's going to be one or the other. David realized trusting in these in the first place had been foolish. So now, David came to the only Source of strength. This, no doubt was God's design all along in allowing these reverses to come upon David, and I would say, it is His design in allowing the events of 2020. This will always be the effect of those who seek God. The trials of life have a wonderful benefit of opening our eyes. It is then that we see our misplaced security, because when they are taken away we are lead to God in prayer.

Albert Barnes said, "*Affliction is often the route that brings good men back to God*".

The sinner is often driven *from* God by the trial, but the good man is brought back to find his strength and comfort in God. One complains and can easily grow bitter, but the other prays and submits to God. The result? The latter is made more happy than he was in the days of his prosperity.

I love the way Psalm 30 ends...

Psalm 30:12, "*To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee, and not be silent, O LORD my God, I will give thanks unto thee forever.*"

David's desire here is that God would cause all that is capable of praise within him, all his powers, be engaged in celebrating the goodness of God. **And not be silent**. David now sees what God's purpose was in all of it— in his prosperity, in his reverses, and in the deliverance of God...**that he would learn to praise the Lord**.

Have we?

Have we learned to praise Him in our own prosperity as well as in our own reverses? Have we learned this in our times of feeling triumphant as well as in our times of feeling defeated? We can only do this by following what David did in verse 8, by spending time in prayer. **And not be silent**. This is so much better than retreating into silence, which can lead to bitterness.

There is a current worship song that says it so beautifully...

*I love You, Lord
For Your mercy never fails me
All my days, I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God*

*And all my life You have been faithful
And all my life You have been so, so good
With every breath that I am able
Oh, I will sing of the goodness of God*