



Empowering People to Change the World

Trials and Waiting on God
Psalm 40
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Road Declaration

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Psalm 40 - Trials and Waiting on God

Ex. I am reminded of a time in my life that God used to draw me to Himself in a new way. I was 21 years old. I had become a Christian as an 18-year-old. I was enjoying my newfound faith and growing in my understanding of God's grace and power. Yet, I was struggling with an area of my life that seemed insurmountable. I had what doctors called "chronic acne." It was despairing for me socially, mentally, and spiritually. But God used it to draw me to Himself in a new way. God mightily used **Psalm 40** to show me His love and power in my life...

- For two years, I agonized over my acne.
- I had some Christian leaders pray over me to no avail.
- But something happened when I learned the lesson of thanking God.

Psalm 40

Psalm 40 is about trials and tribulation and learning to wait on God. Some of our greatest lessons in life are learned through trials and having to wait on God.

Verse 1

To wait, *qava* in Hebrew, meaning to "twist together like rope, to twist and make strong."

- To bring together and bind.
- The feeling here is that waiting strengthens you! Waiting on God binds your heart and spirit together in ways you can't achieve without waiting on God.
- God regularly places things in our lives that make no sense; they are a mystery. You **MUST** go through such times to discover another aspect of God.
- God regularly places seemingly impossible situations in our lives in order to cause us to call out to Him.

- It is in the valleys, the hard times, the sin, the mistakes that we cry out to God for deliverance; and we must WAIT on Him.

Waiting on God braids God into us.

Waiting on God braids the faith strands into our life for God's glory.

- God loves when we cry out to Him. There is no place in the Bible where a saint cries out to God, that God does not show up and answer His prayers.
- God loves when we cry out to Him! But it's always with a waiting. Waiting is braiding.
- It's not about your glory; it's not about you. But God is bringing you to that place of trusting Him that He might get the greater glory.
- God does not answer on our timetable, but on His. It is often weeks, months, and years before He shows up. But He does show up!
- It takes patience to wait on God. Patience takes the Spirit's power. We are not naturally patient. We want our instant answers on the spot. God wants to teach us patience.

Verse 2

- We all have gone through "horrible pits" in our life. If you haven't, get ready, they are coming. Hey, LIFE is HARD.

Life is hard and contentious.

- Sometimes we have dug our own pit, and sometimes not. God has allowed us to fall into it, and we are in circumstances that seem overwhelming.
- David calls this pit, "horrible," which is *shaon* in Hebrew, meaning, "uproar, destruction, noise, and tumult." This is not a pretty picture.

- David has been feeling overwhelmed and anxious...problems are like “miry clay,” in that they can be slippery, dirty, and just kind of stick to you.
- Ex. May I give you some perspective on miry clay and horrible pits? Sometimes they are because we take short cuts.

Shortcuts are the longest distance between two points.

- Waiting on God is the shortest route to answered prayer.
 - Personal growth is never through a shortcut.
- But God has taken His hand and pulled him out of the pit. The Lord has set his feet upon a solid rock. The contrast is stark...miry clay vs. rock.
- Jesus is our rock. Jesus is our bulwark in times of trouble. Jesus provides a firm ground to walk upon.
- Jesus guides our steps...for the believer that chooses Him, He will establish and lead our steps, our future, our hopes, and our vision.

Verse 3

- The Lord not only establishes our future, but He gives us praise in the process.

Praise is the outward sign of an inward heart change of trust.

- Our greatest testimony and witness is not just the theology of our heads, but the theology of our hearts; not just the speaking of truths, as much as the singing of truths. It is our merry heart that testifies of the goodness of God.

Praise produces joy, and joy draws people to the joy-giver, Jesus.

- Jesus is the joy-giver. Jesus wants our life and lifestyle to be one of joy.
- Joy in the Hebrew meaning is the idea of having a feast before God.

- Ex. Remember my chronic acne? Well, I began to just praise God for my acne. Thank Him for it. I would just thank Him that He was using it for me to bring glory to Him...He put a “new song in my mouth,” and then He chose to heal me!
- Who else but the Christian has the opportunity and reason for being joyful. We have every reason to live a life of joy and great expectation: we have Almighty God working on our behalf; we have His Son Who has wiped out all our sins and any requirements against us...
- “Many” it says, not just a few, but “many will see it.” People today must “see” before they believe. They need evidence that the Christian life is worth living. It cost so much to follow Christ, so they think, that the visual evidence must be there for them to follow.
- “Many will see it (the joy, the praise, the overcoming power in times of trouble) ...and will trust in the Lord.”
- Our greatest evangelistic testimony is a life that works! People are looking for a life that really works in times of trouble. They look at their lives, and they see the lack of purpose and joy. But they are always looking for the life that works, the life that conquers, and the life that exceeds expectations.

Verse 4

When we trust God, we bless God.

- This is true happiness, to be blessed by God. Our verse explains that such blessing awaits the man who will “make the Lord his trust.”
- The psalmist is trusting God during a very difficult time in his life. He is choosing God, not man, for his solution.
- During times of crisis and struggle, we are tempted to look to man for our provision, especially the proud and confident.
- The word, *respect*, means “to turn to” for help or opportunity.

- The one who trusts in God does not turn aside to the proud and arrogant, but keeps his focus on the Lord.

Verses 5-10

- The blessed man can trust God because:
 - God's works are more wonderful than anything on this earth!
 - God's works are truly miraculous.
 - God's thoughts toward us are good, wonderful, and numerous.
 - He is always thinking about us...more than we can number.
 - This speaks of just how much God really loves and cherishes us.

Delighting in God and His Word is where joy is found.

- We follow God's ways through a renewed heart.
- This is the message of the Sermon on the Mount.
- Delighting in God means that we find joy in God alone. Not earning God's favor, like He is Santa Claus.

Santa Christianity:

**"He's making a list
He's checking it twice
He's gonna find out
Who's naughty or nice.
Santa Claus (Jesus)
Is coming to town."**

- No, not at all. It's rather about delighting in God because we love Him and we worship Him for Who He is.

Verses 11-17

Waiting on God also means letting God fight our battles.

- Lovingkindness and truth must be married together...

Even in hard times, continue to seek God, rejoice, and be glad in Him!

- We should be the most happy people in the world.
- We have power to live our lives; we have love in our hearts for people; we can forgive those who wrong us; we can have bloodstained allies; we can have confidence because we walk in truth; we can have faith because we believe in God's Word.