

Ps 3—Responding to Trials

Crying, vv.1-2

- I. Several wounds pierced the heart of David, for which he cried to the Lord his God.
 - A. The wound of rebellion: Absalom, Ahithophel, his army, etc.
 - B. The wound of fatherly chastisement, 2Sam 12.9-11
 - C. The wound caused by the taunts of others, 2Sam 16.5-8
- II. *Selah*—a call to pause and reflect on what is said: Is it really the case that a Christian has no help in God?
- III. Where do *you* go in the day of trial?
 - A. David teaches us to turn to God, Ps 50.15
 - B. Even if our trials are the fruit of our own sin, he teaches us to still go to God, Ps 103.13
 - C. Why, then, do we let our trials drive us *from* God instead of *to* God? Why do we despair when we have God?

Confessing, vv.3-4

- I. Rather than be overtaken by despair and doubt, David counters his trials and stirs up his graces by confessing his faith in God.
- II. He confessed those things about God's character that would counter the threat of the enemy:
 - A. His shield—this subdued his fear and exercised his faith.
 - B. His glory—this subdued his anger and exercised his peace.
 - C. Lifter of his head—this subdued despair and exercised hope.
- III. He also confessed God's past faithfulness, v.4
 - A. This subdued doubt and stirred up assurance that the God who heard him before will come to his aid now, cf. Ps 22.4
 - B. Thus, David heads off sins occasioned by trials and exercises graces provided for trials.
- IV. How, then, do *you* head off sins and quicken graces in trials?
 - A. David teaches us to confess our faith, which means to cling to God and renew our hope in Him.
 - B. Our God is a counter-comfort to *every* calamity. In Him is a sufficiency to counter *every* trial. Therefore we *never* have cause for despair and *always* have reason to say to our soul, "Hope in God", Ps 42.11
 - C. *Selah*—stop and think about this. Take comfort in this truth.

Calmness, vv.5-6

- I. Knowing that God is with him and will remain faithful to him, David was able to lay down in restful sleep because the Lord sustained him with a calm and peaceful heart.
 - A. Sleep in the midst of our trials is no small mercy, Ps 121.4; 127.2
 - B. God also calmed David's fears of the enemy.
- II. How many of *you* have lost sleep over your troubles?
 - A. David teaches us that faith is a fearless grace which gives way to peace and a quiet spirit.
 - B. Christians are like the burning bush, in that though we are engulfed with trials, we cannot be consumed because the Lord sustains us.
 - C. Let us therefore pray for this calmness of heart in *our* trials.

Confidence, vv.7-8

- I. David at last settles his trial with a prayer of confidence that God would arise and deliver him.
 - A. How often do *you* try everything in your power *before* turning to God in prayer?
 - B. David teaches us that the only way to settle our trials is to turn to the Lord and fix our eyes upon Him.
 - C. David grounds his confidence in prayer upon several things
 1. God is *Jehovah* and *able* to deliver.
 2. God is *his* God who's *promised* to deliver.
 3. Vengeance is *God's*; none else *can* deliver.
 - D. You can also plead these arguments in prayer as well and it will please the Lord as well as encourage your own hearts.
- II. David ends the Psalm with a confession and a petition.
 - A. He confesses that salvation (or victory) belongs, not to his enemies, nor to himself, but to the Lord.
 - B. He petitions the Lord that His blessing would rest irrevocably and unalterably upon His people.
- III. May you learn from David to respond to *your* trials by casting all your cares upon God and renewing your faith and hope in Him.
- IV. *Selah*—Are you responding to *your* trials in a God honoring way?