

Spirit of Grace

Herald

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In God I Put My Trust

In the 56th Psalm David writes:

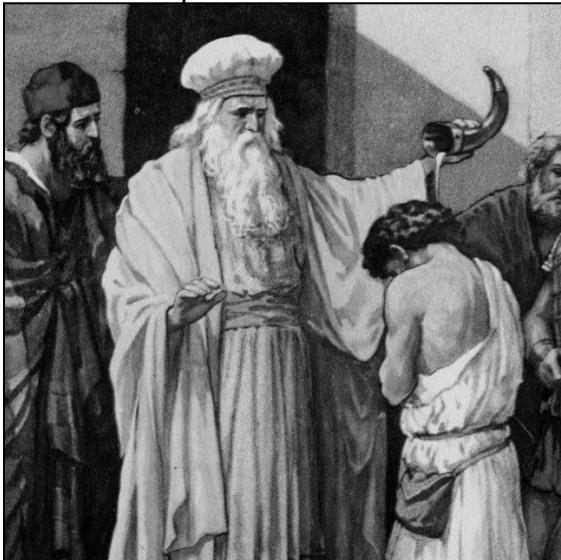
**In God I have put my trust;
I will not be afraid.
What can man do to me?
(Psalm 56:11)**

King David knew a lot about men trying to bring him down. From his youth to his old age, David often was in danger of losing his life. In his early days it was the giant, Goliath, then it was King Saul, and later there were constant battles with the Philistines and even a coup by his own son, Absalom. If anyone knew about men trying to destroy him, David surely did. And yet here he asks, **"What can man do to me?"**

The reason David could take this confident attitude is found in the first part of this verse. David says: **"In God I have put my trust."** David associated his trust in God with an assurance that all the schemes of evil men would never succeed against him. He felt that trust in God was a solid reason to expect safety and security in life. He had trusted – God would surely protect him. Is there a need for Christians today to do as

David did – to put their trust in God for protection? Of course there is. The question I want to take up is: How, exactly do we put our trust in God? What do we do, what are the specifics of how it works when a man or a woman puts their trust in God? Is this trust just automatic for Christians today? Or are there certain things we can do that will enhance our trust and will release God's protection and grace to work for our defense. Most of us do not have literal enemies trying to kill us, as David often did. But we do have challenges, crises, health scares, financial calamities, potentially failing relationships, which threaten to swallow us up. We have our own enemies, and

they are no less scary to us than David's enemies were to him. So how do we "put our trust in God?" Is there anything we can actually do to enhance our trust?



There are indeed things we can and must do, to enlist God as our Defender and be able to say: "What can man (or demons or spiritual attacks) do to me?" First, we must pray. We cannot assume that because we are God's children through faith in Jesus, we can merely ignore our challenges, and they will go away on their own. James writes, **"Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray."** (James 5:13). When our life or health or well-being is threatened, it is time to pray. This is the time we pour out our hearts to the Lord and tell Him exactly what is going on in our lives and seek Him for positive intervention. Of course, He already knows what is happening, far more than we do, but it is always right to pour out our hearts and our situations to the Lord.

When King Hezekiah received a threatening letter from the king of Israel's enemy, the Bible tells us:

Hezekiah went up to the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. Then Hezekiah prayed before the LORD... (2 Kings 19:14-15)

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It seems like Hezekiah was saying, "Look at this LORD. Here is the threatening letter this wicked man has sent to me!" When under attack today, we call on the Lord to defend us, protect us, provide for us, and bring an end to our terrible ordeal. We may go on quite long in beseeching the Lord for mercy and breakthrough. The great heroes of the Bible did this very eloquently. But at some point there must be a kind of pivot, where we go from begging and imploring to praising and making faith declarations. If this does not happen, all we end up with is a begging session, and begging sessions do not get the job done. Remember, in the verse we began with David said, "**In God I have put my trust...**" He doesn't say, "I have begged God over and over." He says, "In God I have put my trust." Jesus tells us, "**Trust in God; trust also in Me.**"

We often say that God answers prayer, but that is not quite the whole story. The truth is, God answers prayers of faith, utterances aimed toward our Heavenly Father that include both petitions *and* faith declarations. We cannot merely say, "God I am in trouble. Please help me, please, please, please help me." We say, "God I am in trouble, please help me. And I thank you that You will help me, because your word says, "**No weapon formed against you shall prosper.**" (Isaiah 54:17). And your word promises, "**My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**" (Philippians 4:19). And Jesus has told us, "**Whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you.**" (John 16:23).

Here is where the power is – not just in prayer, but in mixing faith with prayer. We call on the LORD, we tell Him our situation and fervently ask Him to intervene. And then we praise Him and remind Him of His amazing promises. It is not as though He has forgotten His promises, of course. But as we remind God of His promises and claim those promises for ourselves, we are reminding *ourselves* of those promises and building our faith. Our prayers must be lit with the flame of Holy Spirit-inspired faith in order for them to bring about the results we desire. Once we are safely in Jesus, we have incredible prayer-privileges!

This Month—African Youth Evangelism

This month, October 2025, we are sponsoring a major youth crusade in Kenya. This will involve sharing videos by Dennis & Benedicta over large TV's, along with preaching by local pastors and youth. And, to make things a little more fun, there will be a big soccer tournament as well. It is universally true that most Christians were saved while in their youth. Praise God for saving old folks, but that is the exception and not the rule. By reaching out to the youth of Kenya, we want to reach them while their hearts are still tender.



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