

Between Two Rocks
2023 Between "The Rock" And A Hard Place

Has life ever dealt you a hard blow? Got any enemies? Limitations? Don't Go Anywhere!!!

2 Samuel 22:1-8 – NIV - David's Song of Praise

22 David sang to the Lord the words of this song when the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. ² **He said:**

"The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; ³ **my God is my rock**, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation.

He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior—from violent people you save me.

⁴ **"I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise**, and have been saved from my enemies.

⁵ The waves of death swirled about me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.

⁶ The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me.

⁷ **"In my distress I called to the Lord; I called out to my God.** From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came to his ears. ⁸ The earth trembled and quaked, the foundations of the heavens shook; they trembled because he was angry.

David had killed a lion, a bear and a giant as a young boy.

- **Invincibility** of youth?

David's enemies had taught him his strengths, limitations and God's character.

- Age and experience **ought to make us wiser.**

It is this same man who said,

Psalm 37:25 – ²⁵ I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children (*descendants***) begging bread.**

2 Samuel 22 is a Psalm and is found in Psalm 18....

Psalm 18:1-6 – For the director of music. Of David the servant of the Lord. He sang to the Lord the words of this song when the Lord delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul. He said:

¹ I love you, Lord, my strength. ² The Lord is **my rock**, **my fortress** and **my deliverer**; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my **shield** (***sovereign***) and the **horn** (***strength***) of my salvation, my stronghold.

³ I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I have been saved from my enemies. ⁴ The cords of death entangled me; the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.

⁵ The cords of the grave coiled around me; the snares of death confronted me.

⁶ In my distress I called to the Lord; I cried to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my cry came before him, into his ears.

In *Psalm 18* – David shares the solutions to three major problems we all face.

1st the PROBLEM - then David's **SOLUTION** - He uses three **(3) metaphors in three (3) different ways** in verses 2 and 3.

First Problem: Things Tend to Become Unstable.

- **Volatile, Unsecured** - Things degenerate – not visa versa.
- Just when you think **you have got a grip** – **POW!**

To realize just how much you need an anchor you need the stress of a storm.

- If you aren't anchored – **you drift.**
- If you are anchored to the wrong thing **you drift with it.**
- When you are anchored to the ocean floor **you only go where the ocean's floor goes!**

Solution: "The Lord is my Rock"

Three Important Rocks in Scripture:

1. God, a Rock or Foundation

Psalm 40:2 - He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, *And* established my steps.

2. Christ, the smitten Rock

1 Corinthians 10:4 - And all drank the same spiritual drink. ***For they drank of that spiritual Rock*** that followed them, **and that Rock was Christ.**

3. Christ, the Foundation of the church

Matthew 16:18 - And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it.

Second Problem: No One Can Stand the Constant Stresses of Life Alone.

Life is much like ocean waves, if you get knocked down, they *won't stop* to let you get your breath.

- We all need a “**safe place**” and place to hide.
- Things that “seem” to give us a break ***often deceive us.***
- Drugs, alcohol, sex....

**Solution: “The Lord is my Fortress” (stronghold – fort – hiding place)
Fortress, a place of strength and safety!!!!**

Jeremiah 16:19 - O Lord, my strength and my fortress, My refuge in the day of affliction, The Gentiles shall come to You From the ends of the earth and say, “Surely our fathers have inherited lies, Worthlessness and unprofitable *things.*”

Third Problem: We Get in too Deep to get Ourselves Back Out

Knowing how to get into trouble comes naturally!

- No practice needed but the more we practice the better we get at it!
- I need a “rescue.”

Solution: “The Lord is my Deliverer” - ONE who causes one to escape

Psalm 144:2 – My goodness, and **my fortress**; my high tower, and **my deliverer**; my shield, and he in whom I trust; who subdues my people under me.

- “**My deliverer,**” *Rescuing me in my time of need.*
- “**My God;**” this is **all good things in one.** It means, **my perpetual, unchanging, infinite, eternal God.**
- “**My strength,**” this really means “***my rock,***” ***strength, My sure, unchanging, eternal confidence and support.***

Psalm 121:1 - God the Help of Those Who Seek Him - *I will lift up my eyes to the hills—From where does my help come.*

Buckler, shield, defender - God covers the head and the heart so that neither is wounded by the darts from the enemy.

Proverbs 2:7 - NKJV

⁷He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; *He is a **shield*** to those who walk uprightly.

The horn of salvation - Horns are frequently *used in Scripture as a symbol of power*, hence this means a powerful salvation.

Psalm 132:17 - There I will make **the horn** of David grow; I will prepare a lamp for My Anointed.

High tower - signifies a place so high as to be out of danger.

THE PROBLEM: No One Can Stand the Constant Stresses of Life Alone

THE SOLUTION: The Lord is my Rock.

Those who have placed their faith in Christ need not fear because the worst thing that could ever happen already has. Our sins have been judged.

But you've got to remember..

- **This is the God who divided the red sea for Israel.**
- **This is the God who swallowed up Pharaoh and his army.**
- **This is the God who caused Jericho's walls to fall down.**
- **This is no ordinary God: He's the one who answers by fire.**
- **He is an awesome God!**

Let me help you understand something today.

- **It's not you that the **devil** is afraid of. And it is not me.**

But we have a God who Loves us.

- **And cares for us. **Who became flesh only to die for us.****
- **And at his disposal can and will **dispatch a legion of angels to aid you** in your time of need.**

And my Bible tells me that the devil trembles when I call on this God's name.

- How I love the Name of Jesus.
- For there is **no other name under heaven** given among men where we must be saved.
- ***For it is at the mention of that name*** that *every devil in hell must surrender his power and his authority.*
- Is it any wonder that we are told in the scripture ***to baptize in that name?!***
- Is it any wonder that the bible tells us ***to pray in that name?!***
- *Somebody right now* needs to **call upon that name of Jesus!!!**

When you've got Jesus, you've got all the power in the world to defeat any spiritual wickedness

- **You've got the authority** to bring down spiritual darkness.
- **No evil spirits can touch you.**
- **No spell can hold you.**
- **No witchcraft can bind your happiness.**

All you need is Jesus!

- All you need is **the touch of God** upon your life.
- All you need is **the Holy Spirit.**
- **The gift** of God.
- Just a bent knee at **an altar of repentance.**
- Just a humble heart **seeking help from a loving God!**

How many know this afternoon...

- If you're going to make it in this ungodly world, **it's going to take a relationship with Jesus!**

Paul said "O that I may know him"

- **Don't you want to know him today?**
- **Don't you want to experience Him in your life.**
- **You've heard about Him from others but isn't it time you let Him into your own heart?**

That's the wonderful thing about belonging to such a good church as this.

- Here you have fellow believers who will pray with you.
- Here you have brothers and sisters who bear one another's burdens.
- This is the house of faith.
- We love one another here.
- **Regardless of your background**.
- Regardless of your history.
- Regardless of your pedigree.
- Regardless of your faults and failures.
- **We still love you, and we'll fight the good fight of faith together to see that you make it in the Kingdom of God.**

This is more than just another church.

- **This is the family of God.**
- We pray together.
- We work together.
- We worship together.
- We go through the hard times together.
- And we go through the good times together.

The Bible tells us that a three-fold cord is not easily broken

- We believe that **Godly unity** is the thing that will bring victory to ourselves.
- **our families**, our **neighbor hoods**, our **communities**, and **our great nation**.

I believe There is nothing that can stop people whose mind is stayed on living for God and making a difference in their world.

Here is **the first thing** every person **must do if** they are going to **live for God**.

You've got to be willing to step out from where you are at and show the world that **you are not afraid to live for God**.

- The first step of every believer is the one from the pew to the altar.

IF you're not been willing to take that first step...everything will remain the same in life.

- ***The bondage - The fear - The harassment - The stress - The sin***

Nothing changes when you fail to take that first step, It only gets worse!

When you **take that first step** of living for God...

- It gets better - and better - and better.
- Until the day comes ***where we all step over the threshold of glory*** into that glorious promised land called heaven.
- **I don't know about you**, but I plan to make heaven my eternal home.

Isn't it time to ignore the devil and take **that first step** in living for God?

Isn't it time to let God fight your battles?

- Isn't it time to give your heart to Jesus and let the world go.
- **I don't know about you**, but **I want to be right with God** when I leave here today.

Has life ever dealt you a hard blow? Got any enemies? Limitations?

Don't Go Anywhere!!! SOLUTION:

- 1- Ask the Lord to be "Your Rock"!
- 2- Ask the Lord to be "Your Fortress"!
- 3- Ask the Lord to be "Your Deliverer"!