

from this period and there is good ground for such an inference.) To "wait on the Lord" is not to lose ground in one's spirit, but to make blessed gains. See what happened with David as shown in Psalm 54:-

1. He prayed, vv. 1, 2.
2. He petitioned vv. 3, 5. This was particularly directed towards the enemies.
3. He believed, v. 4. No question about it! He knew God was on his side.
4. He praised, vv. 6, 7. It is pleasant to read the "I wills" of these verses. God had worked personally (v. 7) and externally (v. 7).

Conclusion

We have been sharing some wonderful information for people who know God through Jesus Christ our Lord. In the strength of David's experience, we have sought to lift up the people of God. Oh, that each one who knows the Lord might take advantage of their available resources in the Lord and know exactly how He will deal with them. Here is a good explanation of real-life situations. Perhaps you are not a believer on Christ and this handling of life situations is foreign to you. Turn your whole being over to Him. Open your life to Jesus Christ. Then you too will have these resources to cope with your needs. He is wonderful!

Notes:

THE BOOK OF FIRST SAMUEL

"David At Keilah"

1 Samuel 23:1-29

Introduction

1. The Word teaches that the "steps of a good man are ordered of the Lord" (Psa. 37:23). Now if we would really believe that it would make a mighty big difference in our lives!

2. Following the steps of David lead one, in the study of this chapter, to a village called Keilah. He was still fleeing from the wrath of Saul who intended to kill him and blast his chances of becoming the next king of Israel. The whole story of David's rise to the kingdom is an exciting adventure in the guidance of the Lord for one who has committed his life to God.

3. If you do, like David, "wait on the Lord" for His will to be experienced, just what can you expect to happen? That is really the contents of this chapter. Here are some of the experiences David had-- you might have the same kind of things happen to you.

1. ASKING--Guidance.

- a. Directly. Several times in the chapter it is noted that David directed his petitions to the Lord for guidance (vv. 2, 4, 10-12). The original Hebrew verb is the common one for "ask or interrogate." Far too many folk want to "tell God" something, but David desired to "ask God" something!
- b. Persistantly. The record of vv. 10-12 is really potent. It shows the deep and genuine desire of David to know the path he was to take. Look at the phrases "O Lord God of Israel" used twice. Then the emotionally filled words "thy servant." The verb "beseech" is not in the original; it is rather a particle added to the verb "tell" expressing entreaty. It's a strong appeal. At least four rapid fire questions are asked by David. He had to know!

2. ACTING--Variantly.

Patterns of behaviour or stereotype actions just can't be found in the Word of God. What God might say at one time will not be the same at another. There is no question about it. God told David to go to Keilah (v. 2). He also gave him assurance of triumph. BUT the next time David asked about Keilah, God told him to flee (v. 12). We ought to take to heart these two factors: a. God does NOT tell everyone the same thing and b. God does NOT always give the same directions. There are no general plans for everyone! Each and every move requires fresh and stimulating action. This supports the great challenge to be alert to new adventures with the Lord!

3. GETTING--Help.

What a gracious touch from the Lord in vv. 16-18. Jonathan, Saul's rather obstinate son, comes to the consolation of David. Now that's a turn of events that is really great. Lots of people who "wait on the Lord" are dead against talking things over with other believers. Not so with David. There was a mutual agreement of encouragement and blessing between the two.

The verb "strengthen" means to make firm and hence to encourage. It has the idea of binding firm or girding together. God has His own wonderful way of sending the right people along at the right time! The three "shalls" of v. 17 are really wonderful. Think what this little interview in the woods meant to David. Have you ever been in the "woods" and a Christian friend encouraged you there!?

4. HAVING--Opposition.

Many of the Lord's people feel that if they are really walking with God and seeking to do His good will that problems and opposition are at an end. Ah friend, take courage. David had his problems-- you will have yours. There were the Ziphites who treacherously sought to upset the scheme of God for David (v. 19 cf. 26:lff). If you take the time to share your experiences with others you will

soon find that all of the Lord's own find this true. Sometimes there are frontal attacks. Other times there are the surreptitious Ziphites who seek to undermine a person. But when these enemies arise, do not cry: "out of the will of God". David was in the will of God and he was "waiting on the Lord" yet he had dreadful opposition. Now only was Saul out to get him, but there were many who were ready to join hands in the fray.

All the so called "imprecatory Psalms" (those which inveigh against the Psalmist's enemies) must be understood in the light of opposition within God's will. It is right for persons seeking the performance of His will to ask God to intervene against the opposition, but it must be expected as part of the picture in "waiting upon the Lord."

5. SEE--God work.

Divine providence is more than a theological concept. It is a glorious and thrilling activity of the Lord in behalf of His own. Matt. 6:25-34 provides a spelling out of the living concern of God for every need (cf. Isa. 40:25-31).

If one waits on the Lord, God will work. It will be just as needed! The verb "delivered" (v. 14) is the common verb for "give." This heightens the whole idea of God's interest in His own. We are in His hand and nothing happens to us unless He "gives us" to the circumstance! Glorious and infinitely wise God is He! The divine intervention is again noted in vv. 26-29. This is not a record of chance, but a display of God's movements in behalf of David. One can expect these phenomenal things to happen as "he waits upon the Lord."

6. SHOWING--Spirituality.

Perhaps a little noted experience in the "waiting upon the Lord" is the spiritual vitality involved. Fortunately, the Spirit of God has recorded the inward thoughts of David during these crisis days (see Psalm 54. Some feel that Psa. 31 is also