

Challenge

THE GOOD NEWS PAPER
October 2005
PRAYER LETTER OF CHALLENGE LITERATURE FELLOWSHIP (AUST.) INC.

Last month we looked at Psalm 34 and how we handle tough times in our Christian walk. I want to continue down the same trail this month as we look at how we cope with trying times. **Psalm 62** talks about hanging in there when everything seems to be screaming at you to give up and just walk away.

David wrote this psalm most probably during his son Absalom's rebellion or during his reign over Judah in Hebron when Saul was doing all he could to kill David. Either way David felt he was between a rock and a hard place as far as what the future looked like. However, despite the circumstances David gives us some very good advice as to hanging in when the going gets tough.

Firstly David reminded himself in verses 1-4 that God alone saves both in terms of a personal relationship with God, and in terms of being delivered from a difficult situation in life. What David was saying was that he was determined to trust in God and God alone. Again it highlights the importance of keeping our focus on God and not on our circumstances, as difficult as that may be.

David's faith was exemplified in the fact that he waited on God in silence. Have you ever stood in a bank queue lately and listened to the conversation of those waiting to be served. I can assure you that many do not wait in silence for service. David's silence implies his submission to the working of God in his life and in his circumstances.

The testimony that our faith is in God and Him alone is shown in the lack of complaining. I have said this before and I want to say it again, that the time of greatest testimony for us to the non-Christian is in times of trial. How we handle difficult times can be an unbelievable witness to non-Christians. Notice also that David did not try to manipulate the situation or the circumstances to alleviate the problem.

In verse 2 David prayed to God and relates how this affected him. As he prayed God brought stability as David declared God to be his rock. God gave His deliverance and His protection. The word used for defence is the word picture of a strong tower that is impregnable despite the level of opposition. This then was coupled with a warm expression of confidence in God's keeping power. The word moved has the idea of not been shaken or demoralised by our circumstances.

David then prayed patiently to God in verse 3 which is a key part of waiting on God for His deliverance. David had confidence in God that when He was ready He would deal with his difficulties and his enemies. These enemies lacked integrity and were marked by hypocrisy. As verse 4 shows these enemies revelled in their sin and hypocrisy.

Secondly David discovered that God alone encourages us, verses 5-8. As David waited silently on God, yielded and surrendered to Him, David found himself being encouraged by his Heavenly Father. Again he reminds himself of who God is and what He does. A number of things are delineated for our blessing.

- (i) Look expectantly for God's deliverance.
- (ii) God is the only one who can wonderfully deliver us even when things seem hopeless, illogical or no ready solution seems to be available.
- (iii) God is our refuge. God is the one who brings us words of comfort and who encouragingly answers our prayers for help.

Then thirdly David discovered in verses 9-12 that God alone rewards us as we wait patiently on Him.

As David prayed genuinely and authentically he gained a new *perspective on his situation*. He discovered that his situation was not as bad as he first thought. As he analysed his predicament he realised that his enemies lacked substance. The men who threatened him were seen as a vapour meaning that they lacked those things that gave meaning to life.

David also realised that there was nothing to be gained from oppression and dishonesty. These folks were making the same mistakes that many people do today in that they were trusting in their position in life and their wealth, in the hope it will bring peace and satisfaction into their lives. Unfortunately disappointment is all they gain and so they throw themselves even more determinedly in the hope that they will gain that elusive goal.

David then reminds himself that all power belongs to the God whom he worships. What he is really saying is that God reigns supreme no matter what the situation may look like on the surface.

When Isaiah went into the temple in chapter 6 of his book, he entered thinking it was going to be like any other day. He was concerned about the Assyrian enemy gathering on Israel's borders and the spiritual decline of his nation. However, this was a day that was to change Isaiah's life as he saw the Lord high and lifted up. Immediately Isaiah saw himself as he was and declares that he had been undone and that he was a man of unclean lips in the company of men of unclean lips.

(Please turn over)

Apart from this Isaiah learnt another important lesson as he saw the Lord high and lifted up. Uzziah the King had just died after a prosperous 52 year reign and Isaiah realised that although earthly kings come and go, the King of Kings reigns supremely forever.

David closes Psalm 62 with the reality that every person is judged according to his work. For the non-Christian this means that he or she will be judged for their rejection of the Saviour Jesus. For the Christian we will be judged on the basis of how we have served God as it is spelled out for us in 1 Corinthians 3: 5-15.

— Carl Carmody, Editor of Challenge

“Challenge – the good news paper – Kenya Edition”

FROM THE DIRECTORS DESKS.

Dear Sponsors, It's my great pleasure to thank you for your generous contribution towards this Pilot issue of **“Challenge – the good news paper – Kenya Edition”** to have reached, us and blessed us greatly this much. I do sincerely hope that it will continue being supplied into our country and many shall be blessed and be born again.

Already as I write this thank you letter, five people have accepted the Lord Jesus as their personal saviour. Fifty people have already called me in my mobile phone wanting to know more about Jesus and a number have called me from different cities within my country that they be supplied with the challenge newspaper! My special thanks goes to **God** the Almighty having passed us through the rough path to victory. Secondly, to the **Partners International** for producing resources.

Thirdly, to **bro. Carl** and the entire **Challenge Literature Fellowship Staff** and Last but not least, **Bro. Harold Peasley** and the entire **Mult-Ministries Staff, UBS, Irene Mbugua, P.M.F Kenya Board** and **Members.**

Thank you.

It is for a worthy cause!

Pastor Paul Dondoh

Peace Makers Fellowship – KENYA.

READERS COMMENTS.

- 1) Wow! What a paper. Where did this one come from? I have never seen a blessed paper like this! I would want to read more and more. – **John Otieno, Age- 38 years old. Nakuru.**
- 2) “Challenge” is just wonderful! I hope it will continue in the market. – **Bishop Gordon Akumu – City Mission Fellowship- Nakuru, Kenya.**
- 3) “We have read many Christian Magazines but “Challenge” is different especially the testimonies inside and the sports page. May the Lord bless the publishers. – **Pastor John Karuki - Magnolia Baptist Church, Nakuru.**
- 4) It's inspiring and well worked on paper. It will bless many. – **Jane Nyamu – Kisumu.**
- 5) It's full of counselling tips especially that area of AIDS. – **Maria Babu – Senior Counsellor and Tutor. – Nairobi Professional Counselling Center, Nairobi.**
- 6) The Artwork is perfect, and the arrangement is good. Its full of gospel for Jesus. The Heading is bigger than our daily papers. It attracts the readers. I am surprised! – **Mildred Ngesa – Journalist (Nation Daily Newspaper) Mombasa.**
- 7) The front-page story “filled the emptiness” has blessed me, I have conducted Pastor Paul Dondoh. I want to be saved! – **Susan Wanjiru – Nakuru.**
- 8) “God forgive me. I have been forging letters of invitation to get to the American Embassy.” **Page 8** on **“Challenge Kenya Edition”** has convinced me. I now repent. – **Charles Ngobe – Kisumu.**
- 9) We as a board, have read **Challenge Kenya Edition** and have this to say:- it's a wonderful paper. Lets continue printing it whatever it may take. May the Lord bless the works of your hands as you continue sponsoring it. – **P.M.F Board Members – Nakuru.**

*Send your testimony to **Challenge** – Your conversion to Jesus Christ is a miracle, and is a wonderful means of witnessing to a lost world – Ring or write or email to Challenge for a testimony outline sheet.*

Challenge Literature Fellowship

PO Box 978, Cloverdale 6985
Phone (08) 9453 3311 Fax (08) 9453 3006
Email: challenge@clf.org.au