



Why God Brings Trials

“...He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, *and* established my goings”
(Psalm 40:2)

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PM Service
Text: Psalm 40

Introduction: Why Does God Bring Trials? That’s what we are asking ourselves tonight. Open your Bible to **Psalm 40:1-5**. Tonight we are going to see how much God loves us. We need these reminders when we are discouraged. David wrote this Psalm probably during the rebellion of Absalom. David is speaking about a time in his life when he felt trapped in a helpless and hopeless situation. But, even in that terrible time of darkness and fear, God heard his cry and reached into David’s pit and lifted him out. He tells us how the Lord lifted him out of the mire and placed him in the choir, with a new song in his heart.

David knew, and we all ought to know tonight, that we are in the Father’s hand, and no one can pluck us from His hand. We are told about some blessings that have come to us because God also lifted us out of the miry clay, and He set your feet upon a rock. O the blessings God has given to us! We are going to read about them in Psalm 40. Let’s read verses 1 through 5.

Psalm 40:1-5, “To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. 2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, *and* established my goings. 3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, *even* praise unto our God: many shall see *it*, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD. 4 Blessed *is* that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. 5 Many, O LORD my God, *are* thy wonderful works *which* thou hast done, and thy thoughts *which are* to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: *if* I would declare and speak *of them*, they are more than can be numbered.”

[Prayer for Guidance]

I. God uses trials to allow us to experience His Tenderness.

A. We experience God’s Tenderness when we are **Waiting**. **Verse 1**, “I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry”. David describes a time of waiting in his life. He seems to indicate that this time was a time of helplessness and hopelessness. It was a time when David was waiting on the Lord to move and deliver him from his terrible circumstances. He was unable to help himself, so he was forced to wait on the Lord.

Application: Can you recall what it was like life seemed like it was an utter disaster, perhaps for you, or for another person? Do you remember you called on Him? He answers doesn’t He? Yet, when you are waiting, there’s that pain, and it seems like forever. He’s only doing it for you to appreciate His tenderness when He answers!

B. We experience God’s Tenderness when we are **Weary**. Listen to David describe his weary, helpless condition. **Verses 1-2**, “To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. I waited patiently for the LORD; and he **inclined** unto me, and heard my cry. 2 He

brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings." David tells us that when he cried out to the Lord, God "inclined" unto him. That word means "to stretch out or to bend." When you have no strength, and you are weary, God loves to take you into His arms.

David was in a position where he could not reach the Lord. He had no strength to deliver himself from that horrible pit. He could not reach up, but God gladly reached down to him! The Lord gladly condescended to reach down to lift this lonely, lowly, broken man! **Romans 5:6**, "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."

Can you remember that day when the Lord of glory "**bent down**" to hear your cry? Can you remember the time when the God of Heaven reached down farther than you could ever reach up? Friend, when the precious, Sovereign God stretched down His hand to you and lifted you out of the pit of your sins; that was the greatest day of your life!

Thank God, **where man failed, grace prevailed**, "For where sin abounds, grace much more abounds!" (**Romans 5:20**). I praise His name that He loved us in spite of our failings! His tenderness abounds to us. We have nothing to complain about. God's not given us what we deserve!! He's given us His tender love.

Now if God saved you when you had no power to save yourself, don't you think He'll "freely give you all things"?

Remember you may be without strength and weary, but when God bends down, you receive His omnipotent power!

C. **We experience God's Tenderness when we are Wounded. Verse 2**, David testifies of God that "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay".

David describes himself as being in a "horrible pit." The word "horrible" means "roar, din, crash, uproar, tumult."¹ "Pit" refers to a "cistern or a dungeon."²

Back in ancient times when a cistern was broken and could no longer hold water, people would use it to hold prisoners, and it was mucky and filled with mud and grim. Being in a trial is like that. This has the idea of being trapped in a place of torment.

David speaks as one who is wounded by the problems and burdens of life. But, God reached out to him, even in that horrible time and extended His tenderness to David. God wants to give comfort to your wounds. He cares for you, and understands your pain. Remember He was WOUNDED too! (Isaiah 53:5-6)

II. God uses trials to allow us to experience His Touch.

A. **Explanation:** The phrase "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay..." indicates that God did not just see what David was going through and He did not just listen as David talked; God did something about it! He got into the pit with David and he lifted David out.

¹ Strong's Concordance. 07588 נָוַע sha'own shaw-one'

² Strong's Concordance. 0953 רֶבֶב bore. AV-pit 42, cistern 4, dungeon 11, well 9, dungeon.

B. Remember, even the Apostle Paul suffered greatly in order to keep Him humble (**2 Corinthians 12:9**). When we are weak we are really strong. Example: poem "Foot Prints". God is there for you when you can do nothing for yourself. Christ said to Paul, and says to all of us in **2 Corinthians 12:9**, "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Paul's reply was, as our should be, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

C. **Illustration:** I don't know of another poem that expresses this better than the poem entitled "Footprints".

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonging to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of life, there was only one set of footprints.

He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life. This really bothered him, and he asked the LORD about it. He said, "LORD, You said that once I decided to follow You, You'd never leave me, but I've noticed that during the most turbulent times in my life, there was only one set of footprints in the sand".

The LORD replied, "My precious, precious child. I love you, and I would never leave you. During your times of greatest trials and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints in the sand, it was then that I carried you.

We need to realize that God makes us wait only because He wants us to appreciate His touch. He will take us out of the horrible pit, out of the miry clay and set our feet on the Rock Christ Jesus.

III. God uses trials to allow us to experience His Transformation.

A. God changes our **Past**. **Verse 2**, "He brought me up also out of a horrible pit, out of the miry clay".

Christ's touch in our hearts has now changed your life! God brought David up out of that terrible dungeon. When David talks about "miry clay," he is speaking of the sludge that collects at the bottom of a well. It has the idea of that deep, slimy, clinging mud that tries to pull you deeper into its grasp. It also has the idea of instability; of feet that are slipping and in danger of falling. My past can no longer harm me! I'm forgiven in Christ. God's cleansed me!

Each day God is conforming us more and more into the image of Christ (**Romans 8:29-30**). We are growing and changing in the grace and knowledge of Christ every day (**2 Peter 3:18**).

- B. God changes our **Present, Verse 2**, "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings." I am now in Christ, part of His church, and Christ is the Head of His church. **Galatians 2:20**, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Our feet are now founded on the Rock, which is Christ. He establishes our goings. Christ is Lord of lords and King of kings in every decision of our life.

- C. God changes our **Future. Verse 2**, "He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings."

Proverbs 3:5-6 give us the same principle: "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." You can trust God in the darkness!

Listen to the Psalmist of **Psalm 37**, probably David who says in **verse 1**, "Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. 2 For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. 3 Trust in the LORD and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. 4 Delight thyself also in the LORD, and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart. 5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass." Amen isn't that true? Look down at verses **23-24**, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, and He delighteth in his way. 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down; for the LORD upholdeth him with His hand". God's going to guide your feet!

"Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (**Philippians 1:6**). Hebrews 12 tells us that Christ is the "Author and finisher of our faith"!

- D. He changes our **Purpose. Verse 3**, "And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD." The joy and praise of our life is now different than most of the people that surround us. Before we were saved, everything was about us. Our purpose was to improve our life by whatever means possible. Now our purpose is to give praise and glory to God with our life with what ever God gives to us. If He gives us poverty, we'll serve Him in poverty. If wealth, we will serve Him in wealth. Whatever we have we want to utilize for God's pleasure and praise, not our own.

- E. He changes our **Power. Verse 3**, "And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD."

The mouth is indicative of what is in the heart. God has put a new power within us. When people see that power in us, they fear and some even trust in the Lord for salvation. People used to look at our lives and see the world. They saw money or possessions or pleasure. Now they see the Lord. When people see you they will see that the central power of your life is the Lord, and they will want to trust in Him!!

- IV. God uses trials to allow us to experience His **Trustworthiness**. Great is His faithfulness!! Very briefly consider **Psalm 40:4-5**, "Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, and respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. 5"

Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered."

When you look back on God's "wonderful works" in your life, you have reason to trust God. He is trustworthy. He's never told a lie, never been late, and never neglected anyone of His children even for a second. These trials are the stuff that faith and strength and trust is made out of. Because when you are weak, then you are strong in the power of Christ!

Conclusion: God's purpose for trials is to conform you into the image of Christ. Seek to please Him with your trials.