Clips from Psalms
Psalms 102:14-15
Prayer of an Afflicted One for Mercy on himself and on Zion.
A prayer of the afflicted, when he is overwhelmed, and pours out his complaint before Jehovah.
*For your servants take pleasure in her stones, and have pity upon her dust.
So the nations shall fear the name of Jehovah, and all the kings of the earth thy glory.*

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Faithfully Waiting on God

A third element of the king’s life that we learn about in the first 25 Psalms is his willingness to wait on God. David writes, "May integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait for you" (Psalms 25:21). David often found himself in need of God’s help and blessings. The king would confidently pray to God and the Lord would deliver him from his enemies (see Psalms 21:8-9). Sometimes waiting for God’s help took longer than what the king expected. David will later write, “I am weary with my crying; my throat is dries: mine eyes fail while I wait for my God” (Psalms 69:3).

Waiting is the time between man’s great affliction and an answer or actual help from God. Waiting is also the time that we live on this earth in faithful obedience to the Lord’s commands till he come again. No matter how trying our circumstance there is no other real option than to continue to wait in faithful obedience. It is during these hours of waiting that God puts us to the test to see if we really love and fear him (see Genesis 22:12; James 1:3 and 1 Peter 4:12). Will we faithfully wait for his promises in trust, confidence, and obedience or will we give in to the affliction that so easily besets us (Hebrews 12:1)?

David was a man who waited for God’s help. The king put his trust and confidence in God. David said, “I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around” (Psalms 3:6). Again, the King writes, “But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me” (Psalms 13:5-6). God was the one real thing that David put his confidence and trust in. David knew that even if all others failed him and his enemies got the better of him that he still
had God. David said that "Some trust in chariots and some in horses; but we will make mention of the name of Jehovah our God" (Psalms 20:7). Confident trust in God is a character that sanctifies the saints of God from the world. Isaiah said, "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid: for Jehovah, even Jehovah, is my strength and song: and he is become my salvation" (Isaiah 12:2). God is everything to those who love him with all their hearts.

David was a Sinner

David's purpose was to never sin (Psalms 17:3). David writes, "I have kept the ways of the Lord and have not wickedly departed from my God... I was also perfect with him, and I kept myself from my iniquity" (Psalms 18:20-22). David loved the ways of righteousness (Psalms 7:17). The king said, "The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot" (Psalms 16:5). Again, David writes, "I for the king trusts in the Lord, and through the steadfast love of the Most High he shall not be moved" (Psalms 21:7).

Though David's intentions of serving God in trust and righteousness were sincere he nonetheless showed himself to be human (Romans 3:23). Though the king was sincere in his efforts to not sin he did from time to time. David's sincere purpose did not exempt him from keeping God's laws and paying the consequences for violations of those laws (14r). The king sinned from time to time (see Psalms 25:11). David lied to the high priest at 1 Samuel 21:1-10. David took many wives which was a violation of the Mosaic Law for the kings of Israel (see Deuteronomy 17:17). David commits adultery with Bathsheba, kills her husband Uriah, and takes her as a wife (see 2 Samuel 11). David moved the ark of God from Abinadab's house, where it had been for 70 years, to the Holy temple in Jerusalem. This was a noble deed; however, it was not conducted lawfully (2 Samuel 6). David instructed the ark to be carried on a new cart pulled by oxen. When the cart stumbled, a man named Uzzah reached out his hand to steady it; at that point God struck him dead (2 Samuel 6:8). David also had showed a lack of trust in God by numbering the people of Israel and so he was chastised by the Lord. 1 Chronicles 21:1 reads, "And Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to number Israel."

The fascinating lessons learned by studying biographies of Bible characters is that we find that they are all men of like passions with us (see Acts 14:15 and James 5:17). David, like us all, found himself doing the very thing he purposed not to do. We are all made to feel wretched in our failures just like the Apostle Paul (see Romans 7:24). The true saints of God will always pick themselves up from their sin, by the help of God, and press onward in this life till we pass to the next one (see Philippians 3:13-15).

John C. Robertson

Psalms 27

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? 2 When evildoers assail me to eat up my flesh, my adversaries and foes, is they who stumble and fall. 3 Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war arise against me, yet I will be confident. 4 One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple. 5 For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high upon a rock. 6 And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD. 7 Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! 8 You have said, "Seek my face." My heart says to you, "Your face, LORD, do I seek." 9 Hide not your face from me. Turn not your servant away in anger, O you who have been my help. Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation! 10 For my father and my mother have forsaken me, but the LORD will take me in. 11 Teach me your way, O LORD, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies. 12 Give me not up to the will of my adversaries; for false witnesses have risen against me, and they breathe out violence. 13 I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! 14 Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!