



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen- October 8, 2022

The Lord be with you.

I am so thankful to my mother. Thankful that when I was a boy, my mom took a Bible and she showed me how to find the Book of Psalms. She showed me, I mean, it was easy. You just open your Bible and right there in the middle of the Bible is the Book of Psalms. And I have been turning to the book of Psalms ever since. When I was a hospital chaplain, I noticed that if a patient had a Bible with them, that more often than not, that Bible would be open to the Book of Psalms. We like to turn to the Psalms in times of trouble, in times of fear, uncertainty. My wife Rita and I began every day in the Psalms. We read and pray five Psalms a day, and those five Psalms a day gets us through the book of Psalms every month. Today, I am pondering and praying Psalm 37. That is a son of David. Psalm 37 might well be one of David's last psalms because he says In the Psalm that he is writing as an old man. In verse 25, David says, I have been young and now I'm old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken.

Psalm 37 is life lessons learned by a man who has lived much and done much, the words of a man who has sinned greatly and been greatly forgiven. And as a grandfather myself, I'd like to think that David is writing Psalm 37 for his grandchildren. I say that because David is skillfully writing Psalm 37 as an acrostic song. That is, it's a Psalm where every other line begins with a successive letter of the alphabet that makes a psalm easier to memorize. So I like to imagine that David is writing these verses as life experience for his grandkids to learn and live by.

Of course, we do not have time in a Selah podcast to look at or read all 40 verses of this psalm, but I wanna take just a couple of verses from the beginning of the psalm, and the rest of the psalm actually illustrates what David is talking about in these couple of verses. Psalm 37, Verses 3-7, the voice of experience. Someone who's walked with God for many years, I begin reading with verse 3, "Trust in the Lord and do good so you will live in the land and enjoy security. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust in Him, and He will act. He will make your vindication shine like the light in the justice of your cause like the noon day."

Now, I see here in my Bible some verbs, some things for you and me to do in our work was God, and I've underlined these verbs to highlight them. Trust in the Lord. Take delight in the Lord. Commit your way to the Lord. Be still before him. Wait patiently for the Lord. I wanna focus for a moment on verse 5. Commit your way to the Lord, trust in Him, and He will act. Think about the way before you today. David says you commit that way to the Lord. Trust in Him, and God will act.



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One of my heroes is a great missionary doctor and explorer, David Livingston. Perhaps you know that famous phrase, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?" Words spoken by reporter Henry standing when he finally found Livingston deep in the jungles of Africa, as Livingston had not been seen for six years, as he was taking the gospel deeper and deeper into the remotest, unexplored parts of Africa.

David Livingston had said that he recited this verse, verse 5, that he recited at five times a day. Commit your way to the Lord, trust in Him, and He will act. Livingston said that this verse guided his way, sustained his way for the many years that he journeyed and ministered in Africa. Now, the Hebrew language is a very concrete language that uses words that are, well, that are word pictures. And that's true of the Hebrew word that is translated commit as in, Commit your way to the Lord. It's the Hebrew word Gala Gala-Al, that literally means to roll, to roll on to... It's a word picture. So picture it, imagine it, that you are rolling a heavy burden, you are rolling what you have on your shoulders, rolling it onto God's shoulders. God can carry it, God can bear it, God will act. Commit, roll on to God your life. Roll onto God the way before you. Roll onto God whatever it is you are facing. Commit, roll onto God your way. Trust in Him, and God will act. This is David's voice of experience. David Livingston's voice of experience. And you know, I'm finding it true in my life too.

Now, I look at this Hebrew word galaal, commit. I look it up in a concordance, and I see that David's son Solomon that he uses this word galaal in his book of Proverbs, his life principles. In Proverbs Chapter 16:3 Solomon says Commit your work. Galaal your work. Roll the weight of your work onto God and your plans will be established. I'm thinking that Solomon probably learned this truth from his father, David. The importance of committing our way to the Lord. The importance of committing our work to the Lord, trusting in him, and the Lord will act.

I do not know what your day looks like. I do not know what you're facing. I do not know what the way before you looks like, but would you right now take a moment with me in prayer to roll it all onto God? Roll it all onto God and put your trust in Him. Turn it over to God and God will act.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.