



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – October 11, 2022

The Lord be with you.

Just about everybody I know, and that's me included, we want to make a difference in the world. We wanna do something with our lives that is worthwhile, something that will endure, that will remain, that well, might even go on beyond us. And we don't wanna waste our time here. We want it to count.

Now, the Bible teaches us a prayer that can help us with that, a prayer to do something with our lives that is meaningful, that is worthwhile, the will endure. You can find this prayer and pray it. It's in Psalm 90:17, "Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us. And prosper for us the work of our hands", and then repeats it for emphasis, "and prosper for us, the work of our hands." That's why through the long history of the church Psalm 90 has been looked at as a morning song, some to pray as we begin our day to set off the work. Go to school. This prayer comes from what is the oldest Psalm in the Bible, it is a Psalm of Moses, and it is a Psalm in which Moses begins reflecting on how God is eternal and we are mortal.

The psalm opens from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. A thousand years in God's sight, well, they're like yesterday when it's passed. And you and me, he says, well, we're like the grass that flourishes in the morning and by evening it withers and is gone... I think here the Moses is feeling his age, life is passing. As Moses says in Verse 10 of the Psalm, he says, The days of our life or 70 years, perhaps 80, if we are strong. And Moses is wanting to do something with his life that will make a difference, something that will endure, and that takes us to this prayer in verse 17, it is a prayer that comes in two parts, the first part, let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us. Can you think of a better thing to pray as you begin your day? Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us. The Hebrew word translated favor is variously translated in the Bible as beauty, pleasant, delight, and all of that having the idea of favor.

It is the word that David uses in Psalm 27:4, when he says that he longs to be in the house of the Lord all the days of his life, to behold the beauty of the Lord. That's the word. And here in our prayer of Psalm 90:17, Moses is praying for the beauty, the delight, the loveliness of the Lord our God to be upon us. And that's what makes for a life that is well lived, a life that has the beauty, the goodness of the Lord upon it. The favor of God upon it. That's the first part of the prayer.



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Now the second, and prosper for us, the work of our hands. And Moses repeats it for emphasis, and prosper for us. The work of our hands. But what does it mean to prosper? Well, I know the prosperity means different things to different people, but the word translated prosper here it comes from a root word meaning to be firm. This is a prayer that the work of our hands, that they be firm, that is established, lasting, permanent, endure. There are lives that will pass away, but our work will not... We may only live once, but that single life can be permanent, lasting... Can have impact with God's favor upon us.

I love that wonderful promise in the Book of Revelation, Chapter 14:13, where it says, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. Their deeds follow them. That means that their work that they do here, well, they will endure, they will prosper, they will last forever. When the favor of God, the beauty of God, rests upon you and me, and the work that we do will have permanence, it's forever, not wasted, it's not spent in a moment. But it is meaningful, valuable, enduring, because we have asked God to be in our work, our activities, and to bless it. God is eternal from age to age the same. Our days are few, but we can do things that really count, we can do things that endure the last forever with God's favor.

So I want to close out today praying for you, praying for you this prayer of Moses, a prayer that God mightily answered in his life, and I believe wants to answer in yours. I pray for you, my sister, my brother, that the favor of the Lord our God the beauty that the light of the Lord our God, be upon you. And that God prosper that he make firm, that he established, that he made to endure the work of your hands. Yes. Prosper the work of your hands.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thanks for listening until next time.