

The Protection That God Provides For His People

Text: Psalm 61

Introduction:

1. Where do you turn in times of trouble? (*You turn to someone who cares, understands, helps*).
 - a. **Brethren**: One source of strength in times of trouble - Galatians 6:2; Philippians 2:4.
 - b. **God**: Supreme strength of the saint - Hebrews 13:6; 1 Peter 5:7; 2 Timothy 4:16-17; 2 Corinthians 12:7-9.
2. 2 Corinthians 11:23-30 - We all must deal with troubles in this life -- How we do so tests and reveals our faith in God!
3. Psalms 61: Confidence in God's protection (*"Prayer of thanksgiving of an expelled king on his way back to the throne"* - Composed by David when he was driven into exile on the rebellion of Absalom [*third son of David*].)
4. Psalm 61 - Why we can trust God's protection.

I. Because God Provides Protection For His People - v. 1-7.

A. By Prayer - v. 1-2.

1. *"Hear My Cry, O God"* - v. 1.
 - a. Shrill, piercing cry - Lament/petition (Luke 22:44; 2 Corinthians 12:8).
 - b. *"Attend"* - Hear and answer it.
2. God hears and answers his peoples' cries - John 9:31; Matthew 7:7-11; Luke 18:1-8.
 - a. v. 2 - Wherever we are.
 - b. v. 2 - Whenever our heart faints.
 - c. v. 2 - God is our refuge – Psalm 62:1-2, 6-8; 2 Corinthians 12:9 (God's grace sufficient!).
3. Pray in times of trouble! - Hebrews 4:16; 1 John 5:14-15; 3:22 - With boldness! - (3:22 - Because we obey Him and do His will!)

B. For Refuge and Strength In Time of Trouble - v. 3.

1. He has been our refuge in the past:
 - a. Against sin - John 3:16; Ephesians 2:1-5.
 - b. Against temptations - Ephesians 6:10-11.
 - c. Against every enemy - Philippians 4:4-7.
2. Trust Him in the present (fortress - v. 3).

C. For Divine Fellowship - v. 4.

1. In God's tabernacle (Church - 1 Timothy 3:15).
2. Ephesians 2:6 – In heavenly places!
3. 1 John 1:7 – For cleansing communion!
4. v. 4 - Cf. birds protecting its young - Matthew 23:37.

D. For Spiritual Blessings - v. 5; Ephesians 1:3.

1. Heritage - Inheritance of those who fear God - Ephesians 1:11; Acts 10:34-35; Ecclesiastes 12:13.
2. Our vow (conversion) and God's blessings compel us to seek His care!

E. **By His Mercy and Truth** - v. 6-7; Psalm 40:11-13.

1. James 5:11 - God has pity toward our distresses.
2. Psalm 119:25-32 - *Truth strengthens us in sorrow and trials* - **When we obey it!**
3. God offers forgiveness, guidance, strength, comfort, etc. if we will trust His mercy and obey His word!

II. Responding To The Protection Which God Provides Us - v. 8.

A. We are to accept the protection in:

1. The *trouble* of sin: Obey gospel / Be restored to faithfulness.
2. The *trouble* of doubt: Romans 10:17.
3. The *trouble* of temptation: 1 Corinthians 10:13.
4. The *trouble* of worry: Philippians 4:6-7.
5. *Go to God for the help **only He can give!***

B. We are to praise God for His Protection - v. 8.

1. Thank God for His deliverance - Philippians 4:4.
2. Worship grows out of thanksgiving!

C. We are to obey God every Day - v. 8.

1. Obeying God accesses His protection!
2. Matthew 11:28-30 - Come to Christ for rest by putting on His yoke (Luke 9:23).
3. Live by faith - 2 Corinthians 5:7.

Conclusion:

1. God's protection in times of trouble are available to all men.
 - a. Become a Christian and be faithful to Christ!
 - b. Christians live in God's protective hand! (John 10:27-29)
2. Don't take God's protection for granted: Live in daily obedience and praise of our powerful God!