

Psalm 59 — Trusting God as Our Defense

Psalm 59 is one of the "Do Not Destroy" psalms of David, composed during a perilous time when Saul had sent men to watch David's house with the intent to kill him. It was in this moment of great danger that David turned to God, not with panic, but with a prayer of trust.

"Deliver me from my enemies, O my God; defend me from those who rise up against me. Deliver me from the workers of iniquity, and save me from bloodthirsty men." (Psalm 59:1–2, NKJV)

David cries out for deliverance and defense—not because of any wrongdoing, but because of Saul's jealousy. David's innocence is clear:

"For look, they lie in wait for my life; the mighty gather against me, not for my transgression nor for my sin, O LORD." (Psalm 59:3, NKJV)

Application:

Many believers suffer not because of wrongdoing, but because of the sinful jealousy, malice, or hatred of others. In such times, our first response should mirror David's: a cry to God, our true Defender.

"They run and prepare themselves through no fault of mine. Awake to help me, and behold!" (Psalm 59:4, NKJV)

David appeals to God's justice, knowing that God sees and acts righteously. He acknowledges God not only as his personal defender but as the Judge over all nations:

"You therefore, O LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel, awake to punish all the nations; do not be merciful to any wicked transgressors." (Psalm 59:5, NKJV)

Application:

While God is merciful to the repentant, He also stands firm in judgment against persistent wickedness. Trusting His justice allows us to rest from the temptation of taking matters into our own hands.

"At evening they return, they growl like a dog, and go all around the city." (Psalm 59:6, NKJV)

David describes his enemies as wild, relentless, and violent. Yet rather than fear them, David confesses confidence in God's power:

"But You, O LORD, shall laugh at them; You shall have all the nations in derision." (Psalm 59:8, NKJV)

"I will wait for You, O You his Strength; for God is my defense." (Psalm 59:9, NKJV)

David does not pray for personal vengeance, but entrusts his enemies to God's justice:

"Slay them not, lest my people forget; scatter them by Your power, and bring them down, O Lord our shield." (Psalm 59:11, NKJV)

Application:

We must be careful not to rejoice in personal vengeance but to trust that God's judgment serves a higher purpose: the display of His justice and the vindication of righteousness.

David continues:

"For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips, let them even be taken in their pride, and for the cursing and lying which they speak." (Psalm 59:12, NKJV)

He longs to see their downfall as evidence that God reigns:

"Consume them in wrath, consume them, that they may not be; and let them know that God rules in Jacob to the ends of the earth." (Psalm 59:13, NKJV)

"But I will sing of Your power; yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning; for You have been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble." (Psalm 59:16, NKJV)

"To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; for God is my defense, my God of mercy." (Psalm 59:17, NKJV)

David repeatedly calls God his "defense," recognizing that deliverance is not self-earned but the result of trusting in God's mercy and strength.

Personal Reflections:

- **Trust in God's Defense:** True safety is not in self-defense but in trusting God to be our shield and protector.
- **Commit Your Cause to Him:** Rather than seeking to vindicate yourself, entrust your situation to God's righteous judgment.
- **Rest in His Mercy:** While David calls for justice on the wicked, he relies on God's mercy for his own deliverance.
- **Sing Even in Trouble:** Even when surrounded by enemies, David chooses to sing of God's power and mercy.

"Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath (literally: leave room for God's wrath); for it is written, 'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord." — Romans 12:19 NKJV

In a world where injustice often seems unchecked, believers are called to live by faith in God's righteous defense and rejoice in His mercy.

"To You, O my Strength, I will sing praises; for God is my defense, my God of mercy." (Psalm 59:17, NKJV)