

Scripture: Psalm 40

Note: Some folks have times in their lives when they feel overwhelmed by circumstances. This Psalm is written by David so I believe we can be looking at a spiritual or physical pit. David could have felt like he was in a pit when Saul was trying to kill him or when his son Absalom led a revolt. He could have felt like he was stuck when he was trying to hide his sin with Bathsheba. The principles of deliverance in this Psalm can help many folks and remind us of how God has delivered us from sin. It is one of my favorites because God has delivered me from the miry clay. I found a wonderful outline for this Psalm.

I. The experience of deliverance. The miry clay implies David is in a hopeless and helpless desperate situation.

1. The path of rescue. (1) I waited patiently for the LORD; And he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. David had come to the end of himself and he had surrendered to the fact that only God could solve his situation. It would be great if addicts would approach deliverance from drug addiction with that attitude. Overcoming grief or illnesses can put us in miry clay. To say he waited patiently doesn't mean he waited passively. This verse says God heard his cry. The cry was for the power and presence of God not just an end of the trial. The path is persistent spirit filled faith filled prayer.

II. What can the deliverance produce.

1. A song of praise. (2,3;5) He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.....And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: Many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.....Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, And thy thoughts which are to us-ward: They cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: If I would declare and speak of them, They are more than can be numbered. Instead of an unstable life now he has a sure foundation. These verses remind me of what Jesus tells us in the sermon on the mount in **Matthew 7:24-27** **Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.** The world is the sand of miry clay, the rock is Jesus. The new song is the song of the redeemed. The witness is the testimony of a changed life, of someone who God has blessed. For us look at all God has done for us. Just think of all the sin he has forgiven.

2. A hopeful expectancy. (3) And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: Many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD . We realize the power it took to get us out of the miry clay and we begin to have hope for our loved ones that one day they will experience the same power we experienced.

3. A deep settled Conviction. (4) Blessed is that man that maketh the LORD his trust, And respecteth not the proud, nor such as turn aside to lies. A conviction is a belief that you will not compromise. Anyone who trust the Lord is blessed by the Lord. There are some special promises for those who trust the Lord.

A. Experience God's goodness. Psalm 31:9 Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; Which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee Before the sons of men!

B. Experience God's mercy. Psalm 32:10 Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: But he that trusteth in the LORD, mercy shall compass him about.

C. Receive a promise of peace. Isaiah 26:3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on thee: Because he trusteth in thee. People either trust in the Lord or they trust in themselves or the world. We trust whatever our worldview is.

D. Trusting God leads to a clear conscience. Hebrews 10:22-23 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) There is only one way to have a clear conscience. We must have confessed our sins, repented and accepted the cleansing power of Jesus. We can stand on the truths in the Bible. *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* Each New-Covenant worshiper should approach God in the conscious enjoyment of freedom from guilt (**having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience**) and with a sense of the personal holiness that Christ's sacrifice makes possible (**having our bodies washed with pure water**). The writer's words are probably an exhortation to lay hold consciously of the cleansing benefits of Christ's Cross and to draw near to God in enjoying them, putting away inward guilt and outward impurity. Once I am saved the Holy Spirit in me reminds me I am forgiven and as I set my mind on the Bible and serving God; God begins to purge my conscience by renewing my mind. God has given me promises and He is faithful to keep His word. I can pray; take up my cross daily; the Holy Spirit will instruct me.

4. There is an intense desire to witness to others about Jesus. Psalm 40:8-10 I delight to do thy will, O my God: Yea, thy law is within my heart. I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: Lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest. I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation. When God delivers someone they can't wait to tell other folks about it. For me I've told over and over about God's deliverance from drug addiction, grief from my parents car accident, being stranded in Kansas City after 9/ 11 and my surgery at UPenn. All of us can recognize and testify about the major times when God delivered us but I believe there is something more here. The Christian experience is a relationship with the living God. His faithfulness and lovingkindness is expressed in our lives on a daily basis. We delight to do God's will because that releases His righteousness in our lives. We are blessed in Him and that is what we need to tell others. **2 Corinthians 5(14-15)** For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: ¹⁵ And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. Someone once said that Christ died for us so that we might live for Him. What does this mean for common ordinary folks, after all we are not all called to preach and certainly none of have the calling of the Apostle Paul? Yet, we all needed a Savior, Christ did die for us and give us eternal life. The churches main focus is the spreading of the gospel so people get saved. For some serving means teaching Sunday School or Junior church, for some its reaching out to someone in need, For some it means serving on the deacon board or taking care of God's property. But all of us must participate in evangelism. Praying, loving, and inviting lost folks to church. One thing that is still the same all need a Savior and unless the folks who know God tell them they may never know. There are too many people stuck in the miry clay.