

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Third Sunday of Easter – May 1, 2022

*“O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.”*

– Psalm 30:3 –

Psalm 30 tells the story of God’s grace in the midst of David’s failure to remain dependent upon him. It appears, in this Psalm, that David sinned against God by resting in a false sense of security independent of God rather than remaining dependent upon him for his security (v. 6).

As a result of his independence from God, God apparently disciplines David with an illness that brings David close to death (see vv. 2-5). But God’s discipline comes from grace and is framed in love (see Heb. 12:6) that seeks to restore David back into right relationship with him.

His discipline works. David shifts from independence to dependence. He proclaims the Lord’s favor made him strong, not anything he himself did, and he expresses dismay at his inability to discern God’s presence (see v. 7). So, David turns toward God and cries for mercy.

God, in his grace, hears David’s cries and heals him (see v. 2), bringing him back from the brink of death (see v. 3). And, as a result, David heartily praises God, exclaiming, “O LORD, you have brought up my soul from Sheol; you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit... You have turned for me my mourning into dancing...and clothed me with gladness...O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever!” (vv. 3, 11,12).

God, in Christ, does the same for us as he did for David those many centuries ago. We, like David, are prone to slipping into independence from God. So often we prefer our own ways to his and taking credit for the blessings he gives us.

We, like David, may experience his loving, grace-filled discipline that seeks our repentance, our return to right relationship with him. And we, like David, can repent. We can return and experience God’s healing, transformative touch upon our lives.

We can experience the joy of the Lord! We can experience his presence among us, no matter what our circumstances. And we can forever sing praises to our God who, in Christ, rescues us from death and gives us eternal life in him.

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