

Psalm 59 — “God’s Sufficient Song for Those in Danger”

We are immortal till our master’s work with us is done! (John Paton)

The enemies are in the city, they go about it, they patrol it at night, they howl like unclean dogs seeking their garbage; their curse is to wander about for bread. They finally are men whose overthrow will make the name of the God of Jacob famed throughout the world (J.J. Stewart Perowne)

David prays to God to defend and deliver him from his enemies, representing them as very bad men, barbarous, malicious, and atheistical (Matthew Henry).

Background to Psalm 59• **Superscript (header)**

- Mikhtam - preserve, carve it out, remember it!
- of David - David authored the song
- Setting: “When Saul sent men and they watched the house to kill David (1 Samuel 19:11)
 - 1Sam. 19:11-12— Then Saul sent messengers to David’s house to watch him, in order to put him to death in the morning. But Michal, David’s wife, told him, saying, “If you do not save your life tonight, tomorrow you will be put to death.” So Michal let David down through a window, and he went out and fled and escaped.”

• **Subscript (closing)**

- Community = for the choir director
- Melody/to be sung = according to “Shushan Eduth”

THESIS — We see great danger! but something happens >>> God’s Sufficient Song for those in danger is seen in these ways...

I. DECLARATION OF THE DANGER (1-8)**II. DELIVERANCE IN THE DANGER (9-15)**

Ancient Near Eastern context of the “**Divine Warrior-King**” —

III. DEVOTION AMIDST THE DANGER (16-17)

Let us learn to Sing Well (*rehearsal for heaven*):

1. **heart-fully** - from the heart
2. **mindfully** - engaging the mind
3. **loudly** - passionately, as if fully-alive
4. **corporately** - with others
5. **biblically** - full of biblical Truth.

Some practical lessons on Gaining this courage amidst dangers. (Some lessons gleaned from John Paton.)

HOW TO GAIN THIS COURAGE? 7 LESSONS.

1. Courage came from his father — his father led him in daily, regular family worship & was a serious minded man of God.
2. Courage from a deep sense of divine calling
3. Courage from a strong Calvinistic theology.
4. Courage in knowing God sovereignly controls All adversaries
5. Courage thru prayers for God’s deliverance (for God’s glory)
6. Courage through joy — Paton said: Let me spend and be spent for God!
7. Courage from personal fellowship with Jesus

Singing in the Bible

There are almost fifty direct commands to sing in Scripture, as well as four hundred references to singing. Two of those passages (Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16) instruct us to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God and to one another. These aren't suggestions, preferences, or good ideas. They're commands. Which means God intends for us to obey them.

Since everyone isn't a musician, how do these apply to us? Why does God want us to sing?

1. Singing is more a matter of our hearts than our voices.

Years ago Ronald Allen wrote in his book *Worship: Rediscovering the Missing Jewel*:

"When a non-singer becomes a Christian, he or she becomes a singer. Not all are blessed with a finely tuned ear and a well modulated voice; so the sound may not be superb—it may even be out-of-tune and off-key. Remember: worship is a state of heart; musical sound is a state of art. Let's not confuse them."

We sing and make melody to the Lord with our hearts (Eph. 5:19). The sounds we make affect those around us, for better or worse. But God hears what no one else can. It's the song of the Redeemed for their great Redeemer. It's a song we didn't originate and can't improve upon. It's true that those who led the singing at the temple were trained and skilled in music for the Lord (1 Chron. 25:7). But there's no indication either in the early church or in Revelation's depiction of heaven that anyone gets a pass when it comes to singing praises to God. Even if we can't sing a note, we can still sing in our hearts.

2. Singing helps us remember words

Throughout Scripture, God reminds his people of their tendency to forget his promises, commands, and warnings. In Deut. 31, as Israel is about to enter the promised land, God tells Moses that his people will turn to idols after they enter Canaan. He then instructs Moses to teach the Israelites a song, so that, "when many evils and troubles have come upon them, this song shall confront them as a witness (for it will live unforgotten in the mouths of their offspring)" (Deut. 31:21). We sing to remember God's word, and most of all, the word of Christ, or the gospel (Col. 3:16). Science has confirmed that we remember words, patterns, and categories more easily when words are set to music. It's why hardly anyone can quote a John Wesley sermon, yet most people know the words to Charles Wesley's "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing."

3. Singing expresses and engages our emotions.

In every culture, music is a language of emotion that helps express what we feel. So David writes, "My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to you; my soul also, which you have redeemed" (Ps. 71:23). The words of his redeemed soul overflow into song. It's why musicals are so popular, why we sing our country's national anthem, and why every revival since the Reformation has been accompanied by an outpouring of new songs. As John Piper said in a sermon,

"The reason we sing is because there are depths and heights and intensities and kinds of emotion that will not be satisfactorily expressed by mere prosaic forms, or even poetic readings. There are realities that demand to break out of prose into poetry and some demand that poetry be stretched into song."

At the same time, music engages our emotions. In Mt. 11:17 Jesus implies that music can lead us to either dance or mourn. It can draw out a variety of feelings including romance, peace, joy, fear, playfulness, sadness, or awe. Singing can help us feel the truth more deeply.

4. Singing reflects the nature of God.

The Father sings over his redeemed people (Zephaniah 3:17). Jesus sings with us in the midst of the congregation (Heb. 2:12). One of the fruits of being filled with the Spirit is singing (Eph. 5:18-19). We worship a triune God who sings, and he wants us to be like him.

5. Singing together reflects and deepens our unity in the gospel.

Being together in the same room is one way we can express our unity. But singing together draws attention to that bond as we sing the same words at the same time. In fact, Paul uses a musical analogy when he wants to encourage gospel-driven unity: "And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony" (Col. 3:14).

— Bob Kauflin

Psalm 59 — "God's Sufficient Song for Those in Danger"**LORD FROM SORROWS DEEP I CALL**

Lord, from sorrows deep I call
 When my hope is shaken
 Torn and ruined from the fall
 Hear my desperation
 For so long I've pled and prayed
 God, come to my rescue
 Even so the thorn remains
 Still my heart will praise You

Oh, my soul, put your hope in God
My help, my Rock, I will praise Him
Sing, oh, sing through the raging storm
You're still my God, my salvation

Storms within my troubled soul
 Questions without answers
 On my faith these billows roll

God, be now my shelter
 Why are you cast down my soul?
 Hope in Him who saves you
 When the fires have all grown cold
 Cause this heart to praise You

Should my life be torn from me
 Every worldly pleasure
 When all I possess is grief
 God, be then my treasure
 Be my vision in the night
 Be my hope and refuge
 Till my faith is turned to sight
 Lord, my heart will praise You

CHRIST BE ALL

Oh, to be empty and lowly
 Meek and unnoticed and unknown
 And to God, a vessel Holy
 Filled with Christ, and Christ alone
 How great is God?
 His grandeur endless
 How frail I come before His throne
 I am lost in love relentless
 That Christ be all, and I his own.

May Christ be all, and I be nothing
His glory shines in vessels weak
May Christ be all, and I be nothing
This is my hope — Not I, but Christ in me
This is my hope — Not I, but Christ in me

I am poor, and I have nothing

All my deeds cannot avail
 But Christ endured the Father's crushing
 He bowed His head as mercy bled
 Peace to prevail
 He bowed His head as mercy bled
 Peace to prevail

Bring me low, my heart lower still
That Your grace my pride relieves
May these words resound loud until
Every tribe and tongue believes [repeat again]

On golden shores of sure salvation
 I will run to meet my King
 Free from shame and all accusation
 He'll give Himself — Nothing I'll bring
 He'll give Himself — Nothing I'll bring

PSALM 59 PSALTER [tune: How deep the Father's love for us]

Protect and save me, O my God,
 from those who seek my life;
 and set me high, secure, above
 the rising tide of strife.
 The workers of iniquity
 against me lie in wait;
 though I am innocent, O LORD,
 they gather in their hate.

Now see their wickedness, O LORD;
 come to my help, I plead.
 LORD God of hosts, O Israel's God,
 rise, help me in my need.
 My enemies with deadly rage
 renew their fierce attack.
 They think the LORD will not regard,
 but you will turn them back.

O God, my strength, on you I wait;
 to you for help I flee.
 My God with mercy will defend
 his own triumphantly.
 O Lord our shield, let wickedness
 and pride be put to shame.
 Then all will know that you do rule,
 and all will fear your name.

Like dogs that prowl the city streets
 my foes slink back at night.
 They would devour my life like food,
 but God will win the fight.
 When all the night of woe is past
 and morning dawns at length,
 then I will praise you, loving God,
 my refuge and my strength.