

Notes of Sermons Preached by Pastor Henry Haddow at Brockham Green
Lord's day morning August 21st 1910

But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble. (Psalm 59:16)

David knew something of the power of God, and of the mercy of God. He says in the words of our text: *I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing of thy mercy* – when deliverance comes. David had faith that God would deliver him. In looking back he could say: *Thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble.* David had his troubles, and he had his deliverances. God commanded deliverances for him. He proved the Lord to be his refuge and defence. *The name of the Lord is a strong tower (Proverbs 18:10): and they that know thy name will put their trust in thee. (Psalm 9:10)* God never forsakes those that trust in Him.

David could say: *O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee. (Psalm 63:1)* David knew what it was to seek the face of the Lord continually. When David penned this psalm, he was surrounded with enemies. His enemies were determined to kill him, but David calls upon the name of the Lord: *Deliver me from mine enemies, O my God: defend me from them that rise up against me. (v.1)* When David's enemies sought his life, he prayed for them. His life was a life of prayer. *Men ought always to pray, and not to faint. (Luke 18:1)* *Pray without ceasing. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)*

David, then, was a praying man. He could say: *My help cometh from the LORD. (Psalm 121:2)*

*He strengthened me, helped me, and caused me to stand,
Upheld by His righteous, omnipotent hand. (Kirkham)*

David had cause, then, to sing of the power of God. It is no small mercy, friends, to know the power of God. As many as are partakers of grace in the house of prayer have known something of the power of God. God brings the sinners low by His power. *God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not. (Job 33:14)* He has all power in heaven and in earth. He doeth as pleaseth Him. It is a mercy, friends, to know the power of the Lord bringing us down, and laying us low before Him. God pours upon the house of David, and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and they fall down before Him. It is not every professor that has known the power of God. Have you? Have I? Has He brought us down, and laid us low before Him as guilty men and women? My words may reach your ears, but unless they are attended with divine power, they will not reach your hearts. I cannot, no man can, only God can, apply the word with divine power to the heart. When God does this, the sinner lies before Him and feels that no creature can help him. A solemn spot, but a blessed spot – lost, ruined, and undone, a guilty sinner.

*A guilty, weak, and helpless worm,
On Thy kind arms I fall,
Be Thou my strength and righteousness,
My Jesus, and my all. (Isaac Watts)*

They fall down, and there is none to help.

You look back, perhaps, to the time when the Lord charged sin home to your conscience. David knew what this was: *O God, thou hast taught me from my youth. (Psalm 71:17)* *He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay. (Psalm 40:2)* God does this in the experience of every soul that He enriches with divine grace. He sets them upon the Rock of Eternal Ages.

*Every prop will, first or last,
Sink or fail, but Jesus Christ;
On this sure foundation stone
Let me build and rest alone. (John Berridge)*

And here the sinner, by the grace of God, is brought to build his hopes upon the blood and righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ. Here he rests for everything he needs. He falls flat at His blessed feet, and realises: *None but Jesus can do helpless sinners good. (Joseph Hart)*

Now this poor soul has been brought down by God's power, and he wants the mercy of God in a precious Christ. When God brought down the Philippian jailor, he said: *What must I do to be saved? (Acts 16:30)* And so it is, friends, when we cry for the mercy of God in the person of His dear Son. They want to taste the sweets of pardoning grace. Nothing can separate them from the love of God. O what an unspeakable mercy to be brought to feel our need! It is our mercy that He is rich in mercy. He will be merciful to whom He will be merciful.

*Mercy, through blood, I make my plea;
O God, be merciful to me! (Samuel Medley)*

Nothing but the mercy of God will satisfy this man, a poor, filthy, polluted worm of earth. O what a mercy that God has purposes of love and mercy towards that man, and that by His power He will bring that soul safely along! O what an unspeakable mercy that God has power in heaven and in earth!

I believe that, if you are seeking the mercy of God in a precious Christ, having been brought down by the power of God, you will be distressed in your soul lest the Lord should cast you forth from His presence, and the glory of His power. Yes, I know what I am speaking about. Here is the poor sinner seeking this mercy. He knows God has power to cast into hell. O sinner, have you ever been convinced in soul feeling of God's power to cast your soul into hell? That is where He brings those that know something of the power of God in their soul. And this man trembles before the Lord lest he never will obtain the mercy that his soul seeks after. But friends, that is the man who will prove the power of God to save. He has power to cast into hell, but He has power to save. This man sits under the power of the gospel, and he would not miss one word. O what an unspeakable mercy if this is your spot, and with this feeling in your soul: "O that He will speak pardon to me!" What an unspeakable mercy to go up to the house of God to hear as for eternity!

*Eternity, tremendous sound!
To guilty souls a dreadful wound;
But O, if Christ and heaven be mine,
How sweet the accents, how divine! (Anne Steele)*

Christ has power to forgive sins, and that man will know it. There is none that can forgive sins but God. He applies the Word with divine power to thy soul: *Thy sins are forgiven thee.* He will feel the mighty power of God through the rich aid divinely given. Some of us have found the power of God to forgive sins. Have you sometimes looked for your sins, and not been able to find them? Have you not known something of what *Toplady* has written:

*A debtor to mercy alone,
Of covenant mercy I sing;
Nor fear, with Thy righteousness on,
My person and offerings to bring.
The terrors of law and of God
With me can have nothing to do;*

*My Saviour's obedience and blood
Hide all my transgressions from view.*

David knew this. Do you know it? Do I know it? Blessed man that knows it. Your sins are all forgiven. Blessed is the man who knows the power of God. I do not know how it is with you, but I do want to know more of this power of God in my soul. I know that nothing is too hard for the Lord. He has but to speak, and the thing is done, but I get so far off in soul feeling. How I wonder at times if I have ever known anything of the power of God. God's people get in this spot sometimes. You cannot get near to Him; all you can do is to cry: "Lord, have mercy upon me!"

*Mercy, through blood, I make my plea:
O God, be merciful to me!*

"If ever I have felt Thy power, let me feel it again. I read Thy word, I call upon Thy Name, but I cannot get what I want. O Lord, draw me, and I will run after Thee." God knows how to deal with us. He brings us down, and He weakens our strength in the way. We are so weak, and we groan at His blessed feet: "Leave not my soul destitute." Do you know anything of this? I did on the past evening. I searched this blessed Book, and I could not find anything. This is a trying place to be in, with nothing to come before the people with. This is how God teaches us our weakness, to realise that the treasure is in earthen vessels. How we want the Lord to come and give us a dead lift that we may go in His strength.

David says: *I will go in the strength of the Lord GOD. (Psalm 71:16)* When I am weak, says the apostle, *then am I strong. (2 Corinthians 12:10)* It is a mercy to be favoured to experimentally use such language. The Lord strengthens that soul. His strength is made perfect in weakness. God strengthens poor, weak, helpless worms of the earth, as we feel ourselves to be. He giveth power to the faint; He strengthens them by His Spirit's might in the inner man, and causes them to realise that He is their strength. He has ever been the strength of Israel. He will not leave them, nor forsake them. *O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me. (Isaiah 44:21)* God cannot forget His Israel. You may forget the Lord, but He will not forget you. You have to cry: *O visit me with thy salvation.*

I sometimes do appeal to the Lord in this manner: "Lord, Thou knowest I want to go to heaven the way Thou takest Thy people there." You know, friends, the way is a way of trial. *Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me. (Psalm 50:15)* He is able, and He has promised to deliver. O my friends, we know, some of us, that God has power to help, and that He is a God nigh at hand in all you call upon Him for.

*Did trouble ever yet befall,
And He refuse to hear thy call?
And has He not His promise passed,
That thou shalt overcome at last? (John Newton)*

O it will be a mercy to stand every storm, and live at last.

I will sing of thy mercy in the morning. David knew then what it was for God to put forth His power and deliver him, and pardon his sins, and bless his soul. He delivered him out of the paw of the lion, and of the bear. And God does deliver His people out of the hand of their enemies, enemies within and without. God knows when to put forth His power and deliver, and He will deliver. He doth deliver, and He will deliver. God delivered Daniel out of the lions' den.

*When thou canst no deliverance see,
Then Daniel's God thy strength shall be.*

May the Lord add His blessing.