

Psalm 31: Trust struggling through trials to triumph

THE POINT: Experience of God's gracious care, along with the conviction of God's absolute sovereignty and constant goodness, can give the believer confidence to push through troubles and maintain courage.

I. TRUST: Confidence in Jehovah is borne of previous experience of His care, 1-8

Key verses: 3b, 5

1. Requests of and attitude toward Jehovah imply trust, 1-5

Expressed in two ways:

- 1) Requests: Prayer in present trouble, 1-2.
- 2) Attitude: Self-abandonment to God's hand, 3-5
 - (1) Absolute confidence, 3b-4,
 - (2) Absolute self-commitment, 5a.

IMPL:

2. Confidence in Jehovah on the basis of past mercies expresses trust, 6-8

- 1) Present trust with expectation of future rejoicing, 6-7a
- 2) Present trust as grounded in past deliverances, 7b-8:

IMPL:

II. TROUBLE: Confidence in Jehovah in the midst of trouble is borne of the conviction of His covenant faithfulness and absolute sovereignty, 9-18

Key verses: 10c, 14-15a

1. *Personal distress may be acute*, 9-10
2. *Personal opponents may be constant*, 11-13
3. *Personal trust for deliverance is warranted*, 14-15a
 - (1) Divine covenant, 14,
 - (2) Divine sovereignty, 15a
4. *Personal requests are welcome to be brought*, 15b-18
Silence speakers of falsehood, 18

IMPL:

III. TRIUMPH: Confidence in Jehovah is borne of the conviction of His absolute goodness, 19-24

Key verses: 19, 23-24

1. *God's goodness is sure, 19*
2. *God's goodness is experienced, 20-22*

IMPL:

3. *God's goodness should lead his people to respond with love to Him and courage in their circumstances, 23-24*
 - 1) God' people should respond to Jehovah's guarding and preserving faithfulness with love, 23
 - 2) God's people should respond to Jehovah's constant reliability with courage and patience, 24