

December 19

Psalm 18:28 (NRSV)

It is you who light my lamp; the Lord, my God, lights up my darkness.

Light in the Storm

We are not immune to storms in our lives. In fact, there will be many storms in our lives. We have all experienced tough times, trials, troubles - storms in our lives. Instead of light there is darkness. When we face those trying times it seems that the darkness has overcome the light. We can no longer see God's hand working in our particular circumstance. Fear of the unknown and anxiety flood our minds with feelings of hopelessness. It seems every attempt to resolve a problem is met with more difficulty. We lose hope that our circumstances can change or be better. We feel surrounded in darkness. We are in the middle of a storm.

Our scripture for today comes from Psalm 18. It is the story of David's life. Let us look at the whole Psalm to understand his story. David is surrounded by his enemies. He is fighting war after war with neighboring nations. His own son, Saul, is seeking to kill him. He fears for his own life. He needs someone to save him. He needs to be rescued. He is encompassed by darkness. He is in the middle of a storm.

David takes action. He cries out to God "Save me! Save me from my enemies." It is a cry from the depths of his heart. God hears David's cry. God answers David's prayer. Like David, in the midst of our struggles, God hears our cries. And, in the midst of the struggle we find a God who is present, who knows our needs and who is already working on our behalf. In the midst of the struggle God himself is a light to us. It is His presence in the struggle that gives us strength and hope to persevere. David describes God's response to his cry as a storm moving in to attack his enemies. He is overwhelmed by God's awesome, mighty power in delivering him. He affirms that God delivered him by strengthening him to defeat his enemies.

He is “the God who girded me with strength and made my way safe. He made my feet like hinds’ feet and set me secure on the heights.” Vs. 32, 33. and vs. 39 “For thou didst gird me with strength for the battle. In David’s story we see God as a shield to those who trust him. We see a man who chooses faith in God instead of fear. We see a man who trusts God and who cries out to God with his problem and then faces his problem with God. God prepares him with strength for the battle.

The Psalm concludes with David praising God for his deliverance from all his enemies. God not only grants deliverance to David but also shows mercy to him and to his seed after him forever.

The storms of life will come. And yet, in the midst of the dark clouds, thunder, and aloneness, lightning! The light flashes, the sky lights up! God’s hand reaches down to steady us, to save us, to rescue us. God himself is our light in the storm! Our STRENGTH, our FORTRESS, our ROCK, our DELIVERER is here! The LIGHT has come.

In less than a week we will once again celebrate the birth of Jesus, the true light! Let us prepare our hearts to welcome and receive! God himself will be a light to us! Our light in the darkness!

Prayer: Gracious, loving God, open our hearts to receive your light in our lives. Shine through us so that we may be a light to others in their darkness.

Thought for the day: God himself will be a light to us.

Blessings,
~ Dori Thurman