

February 6th, Psalms 18 vs 1-19,  
I love you, O LORD, my strength.

Lord help me to understand the correlation between loving you and depending on your strength?

We're gonna learn in this Psalm that David is absolutely dependent on God's deliverance from enemy that is too strong for him. He sees the Lord as his strength, and this is why he loves him. When we trust in our own strength, no wonder our love for the Lord grows cold. We're told that the one who serves should do it out of the strength of the Lord supplies, and this is why God will be glorified in what we do. When we love the Lord, because he's the one supplying our strength, he gets glory.

"2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,  
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,  
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.  
3 I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised,  
and I am saved from my enemies."

The introduction to this Psalm tells us that of when David was delivered from all of his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. What an amazing thing to be delivered from all of our enemies. The enemy of anxiety. The enemy of anger. The enemy lust. The enemy of discontentment. The enemy of loving your comfort in this world more than eternal things. The the list goes on. God wants to deliver us from all of our enemies. And we will sing this song I called upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praise, so shall I be delivered from all my enemies.

"4 The cords of death encompassed me;  
the torrents of destruction assailed me;  
5 the cords of Sheol entangled me;  
the snares of death confronted me.  
6 In my distress I called upon the LORD;  
to my God I cried for help.  
From his temple he heard my voice,  
and my cry to him reached his ears."

Do you think of your prayers, as reaching the ears of God in the holiest of holies in the heavens of heavens? Because of Christ, who sits at the right hand of God, who is ever living to intercede for you. This is true! When you are surrounded by enemies in every side - know for certain - that crying out in the name of Jesus will reach the very ears of God.

"7 Then the earth reeled and rocked;  
the foundations also of the mountains trembled  
and quaked, because he was angry.  
8 Smoke went up from his nostrils,  
and devouring fire from his mouth;  
glowing coals flamed forth from him.  
9 He bowed the heavens and came down;  
thick darkness was under his feet.  
10 He rode on a cherub and flew;  
he came swiftly on the wings of the wind.  
11 He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him,  
thick clouds dark with water.  
12 Out of the brightness before him  
hailstones and coals of fire broke through his clouds.

13 The LORD also thundered in the heavens,  
and the Most High uttered his voice,  
hailstones and coals of fire.  
14 And he sent out his arrows and scattered them;  
he flashed forth lightnings and routed them.  
15 Then the channels of the sea were seen,  
and the foundations of the world were laid bare  
at your rebuke, O LORD,  
at the blast of the breath of your nostrils.”

When your prayers reach the ears of God in the throne rooms of heaven, it is nothing for him to move heaven and earth on your behalf. Christ conquered everyone of your enemies on the cross. Yet that victory must be specifically asked for in each situation to be applied to your heart and the world around you. Jesus is living to distribute such victory through the Holy Spirit every day. We are told that we have not because we ask not, and we ask and don't receive because we ask for the purpose of our own desires. If it's your desire to be delivered from temptation, so you can love and enjoy God... Know that you're going to receive this request. And nothing is going to be able to separate you from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus.

“16 He sent from on high, he took me;  
he drew me out of many waters.  
17 He rescued me from my strong enemy  
and from those who hated me,  
for they were too mighty for me.  
18 They confronted me in the day of my calamity,  
but the LORD was my support.  
19 He brought me out into a broad place;  
he rescued me, because he delighted in me.”

Lord, we can see the correlation now.... David had an enemy that was too strong for him. That hated him... stood against him on his worst day, and brought him so low he could only cry out for help. This brought him to the end of his own strength. Then you sent forth from on high and snatched him out of many waters. No wonder he says “I love the Lord my strength”. Yes, this very same scenario is true for us. Our sin and desire for self fulfillment is so strong we would never be able to overcome it, unless you had not snatched us out of many waters and placed us in Christ.