

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 22) – October 2, 2022

“For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.”

– Psalm 62:1 –

In Psalm 62, David, likening himself to a “leaning wall, a tottering fence” (v. 3) under attack, battered, slandered, and cursed by an enemy (see vv. 3 and 4), proclaims his confidence in God as his “rock,” “salvation,” “hope,” “fortress,” “glory,” and “refuge” (see vv. 2, 5-7).

We don’t know the details of the circumstances this psalm describes, but when David speaks of himself “like a leaning wall” (v. 3) he seems to refer to some sort of significant debility he suffers. David knew that a leaning wall indicated a weak wall that made those who relied on it for protection vulnerable to attack. Yet, in this state of vulnerability and weakness, while under enemy attack, David remains confident. Why? Because David knows the true source of his salvation: “Truly my soul finds rest in God; my salvation comes from him” (v. 1, NIV).

The Hebrew word *dūmîyâ*, translated “waits in silence” (ESV) and “rests” (NIV), carries a sense of “repose,” “still waiting,” “quiet,” and “trust,” according to Strong’s Concordance. How amazing that David assumes this position in light of what appears to be otherwise bleak circumstances.

David confidently professes, “For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him” (v. 5). David knows his hope comes from nothing less than God. Neither his own personal weaknesses nor the might or tactics of the enemy can diminish his confident hope as he trusts in God.

So, he quietly waits on God, finding rest and repose in him who alone – God plus nothing – is his “rock,” “salvation,” and “fortress.” So confident is David in this that he announces, “I shall not be shaken” (v. 6) and encourages his listeners to “Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us” (v. 8).

How reassuring to know we, too, can trust God at all times. We may be weak and surrounded by threats, but we can choose to pour out our heart to God and repose in him, choosing to trust Him.

As Jesus said, “I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world” (Jn. 16:33).

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