

Going down to go up

Psalm 120

A Song of Ascents. (*Literally, a journey to a higher place, figuratively, a thought arising*)

- 1 In my distress I cried to the Lord,
And He heard me.
- 2 Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips
And from a deceitful tongue.
- 3 What shall be given to you,
Or what shall be done to you,
You false tongue?
- 4 Sharp arrows of the [a]warrior,
With coals of the broom tree!
- 5 Woe is me, that I dwell in Meshech,
That I dwell among the tents of Kedar!
- 6 My soul has dwelt too long
With one who hates peace.
- 7 *I am for peace;*
But when I speak, they *are* for war.

The first steps in the life of faith according to Psalm 120

- 1) Turn to the Lord
- 2) Confess my shame
- 3) Receive His peace

Jesus is our sabbath rest, where we receive peace. And the works we rest from are listed in Galatians 5:19-21.

Galatians 5:19-21

19 Now the works (*task, employment; a deed, action*) of the flesh (Human nature) are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,

21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

**These “works” are the effects of sin. So what is sin?
Sin is ‘missing the mark.’**

Philippians 3:14

NKJ - I press toward the **goal** for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

KJV - I press toward the **mark** for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

NIV - I press on toward the **goal** to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Goal - skopos - a goal, a mark aimed at. (on which to fix the eye)

The Holy Spirit convicts a person of sin.

John 16:7-11

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

9 **of sin, because they do not believe in Me;**

10 **of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;**

11 **of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.**

Salvation is threefold:

Justification

I'm saved

Ephesians 2:8-9

Sanctification

I'm being saved

Leviticus 20:7-8

2 Timothy 2:21

Redemption

I will be saved

Hebrews 9:15

The word "sanctify" means to "set apart" for God. In the Christian life, sanctification is an ongoing process that begins with an initial break with sin and continues through the application of the Bible to one's life.

Hebrews 10:14

For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Perfected -(teleioó) means "reaching the *end*" It is well-illustrated with the old pirate's telescope, unfolding (extending out) one stage at a time to function at full-strength (capacity effectiveness).

Perfected is in the past tense because of the sacrifice of Christ.

Sanctified -hagiazō means "to make holy, consecrate, sanctify; to dedicate, separate"

This is the first of 15 Psalms of Ascent. (Psalms 120 - 134)

Under the old covenant;

- Jews were told by God that they had to **go up** to Jerusalem,
- 3 times a year
- for the 3 main feasts.

Deuteronomy 16:16

"Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.

The old testament has many types and shadows that give hints of the spiritual fulfillment that would come through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

We come to an end of ourselves.
We turn and start to grow in God.

Hebrews 10:14

For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

John 16:7-11

⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

⁸And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

⁹**of sin, because they do not believe in Me;**

¹⁰of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

¹¹of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

In the same manner that Israel had to **go up** to Jerusalem to give offering, we have to **go up** to Him in prayer from our lowly place of humility.

1 Peter 5:6

Humble yourselves before the mighty hand of God and He will exalt you in due time.

The verse conveys the idea that humility is a key to a good relationship with God, which grants access to His mercy and favor. It also suggests that people should surrender their feelings and fears to God, and not dwell on perceived wrongs