

THE LORD—THE STRENGTH OF LIFE PSALM 18

Introduction:

David gives us a Psalm of reflection and praise. The first verse gives us the theme that ties the Psalm together, “I will love you, Lord, my strength.” As David reflects on the course of his turbulent life, he is keenly aware that the Lord has been his strength. He is now enthroned on the throne of Israel, just as God had promised, but the path to the throne had been difficult. He had faced and overcome the royal opposition. But now he seems to be on top of the world, and he knows how he got there. The Lord had been his strength. Warren Wiersbe identifies this as a meditation on the ten years he spent fleeing from Saul as an exile. He lived each day with just a step between him and death, but yet the Lord brought him through.

As he reflects, his heart becomes tender toward the Lord. He expresses that tenderness by saying, “I will love you, Lord.” He will never be able to forget what the Lord has done for him. This gives him reason to love the Lord fully and faithfully.

I. HIS STRENGTH COMES THROUGH PRAYER.

“I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies.”

1. His ability to help encourages prayer. (v. 2)
2. His help in the past encourages prayer. (v. 4-19)

II. HIS STRENGTH MAKES US VICTORIOUS OVER THE ENEMIES. (V. 2, 16-19, 31-42)

David had multiple enemies. All of the enemies of the people of God were his enemies, and then he faced daily the enmity of King Saul. We face multiple enemies—the world, the flesh, and the devil. But we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.

1. He faithfully delivers us from the enemies that come against us. (v. 18-19)
2. He fully strengthens us in our battles with the enemies. (v. 31-34)

III. HIS STRENGTH MAKES US SUCCESSFUL IN OUR CALLING. (V. 43-45)

David was called to be the king of Israel. He discovered that God could make him what he had called him to be. God could enable him to carry out his heavenly assignment.

IV. HIS STRENGTH GIVES US A SONG TO SING. (V. 1, 46-49)

Conclusion:

Unfortunately there would come a day when David began to presume upon this strength. He began to assume that it was always there so in a moment of temptation, he fell into shameful sin. We must never forget where our strength comes from. In the New Testament the Apostle Paul had a similar testimony to this Psalm, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Phil. 4:13)

This is a truth to celebrate and enjoy—the Lord is our strength.