

Ps. 56:10-13 "Rendering Thanks"

For the Children: In the OT, God did not save His people just so they could go out from Egypt and enjoy a great holiday on a wilderness adventure. He saved them so they would be free to worship and serve and obey Him. He has saved us for the same reason. Part of our serving of God is saying "Thank You" to Him. If we appreciate a gift someone gives us, we should say "thank you." Since God has given us the greatest gift of all, our greatest "Thank You" should be for Him. **Questions:** What is this great gift God has given us? How do we say "Thank You" to God? How does the Lord's Supper remind us to be thankful to God?

Introduction:

First Point: Trust the Lord

- 1) David as a "Type": David's suffering - perhaps here in the context of his flight to Gath - foreshadows that of Christ. See Ps. 22/Mt. 27:46. David's trust in God amidst his suffering also foreshadows Christ. This trust is based on God's promise of vindication and exaltation. See Ps. 110. Because Jesus trusted His Father, we are saved, and called to trust God too. See Heb. 12, which calls on us to trust the Lord during the "discipline" of God's providence, by looking at how Jesus dealt with far greater suffering.
- 2) Because He Is God: One reason for trusting God is because He *is* God, almighty Creator and Ruler. He is also the "Lord," the eternal, unchanging, faithful God of the covenant. Nothing is too difficult for Him!
- 3) Because of What He Says: In His covenants, He swore on oath that He would protect, deliver and provide for David – and for us. He is the "God whose *Word* I praise." We trust Him also because of these promises, which He always keeps.
- 4) Because of Man: We also remember that man is not great. He is finite and sinful. Those who threaten David - like Saul and Achish – are nothing compared to Him. Similarly with those who threaten us – like Satan and his human allies, sin and death: These hostile forces should not lead us to fear man more than the Lord (Mt. 10:28).

Second Point: Thank the Lord

- 1) Related to Trust: We need to trust the Lord, that He is our Provider, Saviour and Protector, or we will not give Him sincere thanks for these things. This is especially so when we face circumstances that appear to contradict His promises.
- 2) For a Mighty Deliverance: David is particularly thankful that God has delivered him – or will do so -from death and stumbling (v. 13). This points to the greater deliverance through the Son of David, from Satan, sin and death. Though we are still troubled by these forces, the Lord prevents us from stumbling back into darkness. He enables us to live in His light and walk before Him. The Lord's Supper focuses on these saving blessings.
- 3) To Render Thanks: David reminds us that God saves His people so that they may walk before Him in the light of life. The Lord Jesus died, but was also raised, so that we may walk before God, in His favour, under His protection, and in His ways. See Jn. 8:12. We are not only saved in order to obey, but also to render thanks to God. David had vowed to make a thank-offering to God when God delivered him. This is not to "bribe" God. The language implies that David would confess God's Name and works, and praise and thank Him as He deserves. That is why he would keep His vow. We confess, praise and thank God by offering our lives to Him, striving to keep the vows we made when we did so. We see even more reason to do so, given the NT account of Christ's sacrifice for us.

Conclusion: