

Worship Changes Me

Times of Pressure

Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

I. A Portrayal of God & His People

A. Our God & King

Psalms 29:10-11 (NIV)

¹⁰ The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord is enthroned as King forever. ¹¹ The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.

B. My Need of Transformation

Psalms 51:10-11 (NIV)

¹⁰ Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

Psalms 56:3-4 (NIV)

³ When I am afraid, I will trust in you. ⁴ In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?

Psalms 61:1-2 (NIV)

¹ Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer.

² From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

C. Unpleasant Places???

Psalms 66:8-12 (NIV)

⁸ Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard; ⁹ he has preserved our lives and kept our feet from slipping. ¹⁰ For you, O God, tested us; you refined us like silver. ¹¹ You brought us into prison and laid burdens on our backs. ¹² You let men ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, **but you brought us to a place of abundance.**

1 Peter 1:6-7 (NIV)

⁶ In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷ **These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.**

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NIV)

¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For our light and momentary troubles are **achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.** ¹⁸ So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

D. God as Sustainer

Psalms 73:26 (NIV)

²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Psalms 94:17-19 (NIV)

¹⁷ Unless the Lord had given me help, I would soon have dwelt in the silence of death. ¹⁸ When I said, "My foot is slipping," your love, O Lord, supported me. ¹⁹ When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul.

E. Power of God's Word

Psalms 105:17-21 (NIV)

¹⁷ and he sent a man before them-- Joseph, sold as a slave. ¹⁸ They bruised his feet with shackles, his neck was put in irons, ¹⁹ till what he foretold came to pass, till the word of the Lord proved him true.

²⁰ The king sent and released him, the ruler of peoples set him free.

²¹ He made him master of his household, ruler over all he possessed,

Psalms 107:17-21 (NIV)

¹⁷ Some became fools through their rebellious ways and suffered affliction because of their iniquities. ¹⁸ They loathed all food and drew near the gates of death. ¹⁹ Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. ²⁰ He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. ²¹ Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men.

F. God Preserves the Lives of His People

Psalms 118:17-19 (NIV)

¹⁷ I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done. ¹⁸ The Lord has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death.

¹⁹ Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

Psalms 138:7-8 (NIV)

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand you save me. ⁸ The Lord will fulfill [his purpose] for me; your love, O Lord, endures forever-- do not abandon the works of your hands.

Psalms 143:11-12 (NIV)

¹¹ For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life; in your righteousness, bring me out of trouble. ¹² In your unfailing love, silence my enemies; destroy all my foes, for I am your servant.

Esther 4:15-16 (NIV)

¹⁵ Then Esther sent this reply to Mordecai:

¹⁶ "Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish."

G. God Our Defender

Psalms 140:6-13 (NIV)

⁶ O Lord, I say to you, "You are my God." Hear, O Lord, my cry for mercy.

⁷ O Sovereign Lord, my strong deliverer, who shields my head in the day of battle--

⁸ do not grant the wicked their desires, O Lord; do not let their plans succeed, or they will become proud. Selah

⁹ Let the heads of those who surround me be covered with the trouble their lips have caused.

¹⁰ Let burning coals fall upon them; may they be thrown into the fire, into miry pits, never to rise.

¹¹ Let slanderers not be established in the land; may disaster hunt down men of violence.

¹² I know that the Lord secures justice for the poor and upholds the cause of the needy.

¹³ Surely the righteous will praise your name and the upright will live before you.

Psalms 35:1-9 (NIV)

¹ Contend, O Lord, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me.

² Take up shield and buckler; arise and come to my aid.

³ Brandish spear and javelin against those who pursue me. Say to my soul, "I am your salvation."

⁴ May those who seek my life be disgraced and put to shame; may those who plot my ruin be turned back in dismay.

⁵ May they be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the Lord driving them away;

⁶ may their path be dark and slippery, with the angel of the Lord pursuing them.

⁷ Since they hid their net for me without cause and without cause dug a pit for me,

⁸ may ruin overtake them by surprise-- may the net they hid entangle them, may they fall into the pit, to their ruin.

⁹ Then my soul will rejoice in the Lord and delight in his salvation.