

I Don't Know How to Go On

by Carter Conlon

Carter Conlon's sermon emphasizes the importance of relying on God's strength and the power of community during times of uncertainty and struggle in faith.

Duration: 48:28

Scripture: Psalm 34:8, Psalm 46:10, Isaiah 41:10, Jeremiah 20:7, Matthew 6:33, Romans 8:28

Topics: "Endurance"

Description

In this sermon, the preacher emphasizes the importance of relying on God's strength in times of victory and in times of uncertainty. The sermon highlights the power of God to deliver His people from bondage and lead them to a place of promise. The preacher draws parallels to the story of the Israelites in Exodus, where they experienced God's miraculous deliverance from the pursuing Egyptians. The sermon also addresses the challenges faced by believers today, such as being mocked and ridiculed for their faith, and encourages them to trust in God's protection and seek His vengeance on their persecutors.

Transcript

The Lord gave me a message titled, which I believe is going to be an encouragement to you today, and it's entitled, I don't know how to go on. Now, I don't know who this is for, but I have a feeling it's for quite a few people here this morning. You've just come to the place in your life, as a Christian, where you found yourself thinking these words, if not saying them.

I just don't know how to go on. I don't know how to walk into the future. I don't know where to find strength.

I know what I'm supposed to do, but I don't know how to do it anymore. Jeremiah chapter 20, please, if you'll go there and your Bible's with me. Jeremiah chapter 20, and the Lord has confirmed this word with his presence, as he always does when he's about to speak to us.

Now, Lord, I thank you for your presence, more than everything, Jesus. I thank you for your presence in this sanctuary when we gather together to worship you, and to encourage one another, and to unlock your word. Thank you, Lord, that you have humbled yourself to come and walk with us, and you've chosen, Lord, to be with us.

Lord, your word does say that you inhabit the praises of your people, and we thank you for these things today, and for the witness, the strong witness of your presence. Lord, open the word to us. Give me the

ability to speak this today.

Help your word, Lord, to land solidly and powerfully in every one of our hearts, and prepare us, Lord, for the days ahead. Lord Jesus Christ, we give you the praise and all the glory for what you're about to accomplish in us, and we thank you for it in Jesus' name. Jeremiah chapter 20, beginning at verse 7. These are the words of Jeremiah, O Lord, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived.

Thou art stronger than I, and has prevailed. I am in derision daily. Everyone mocketh me.

For since I spake, I cried out. I cried violence and spoiled, because the word of the Lord was made a reproach unto me and a derision daily. Then I said, I will not make mention of him nor speak any more in his name.

But his word was in my heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay. For I heard the defaming of many, fear on every side. Report, say they, and we will report it.

All my familiars watched for my halting, saying, Peradventure he will be enticed, and we shall prevail against him, and we shall take our revenge on him. But the Lord is with me as a mighty, terrible one, and therefore my persecutors shall stumble, and they shall not prevail. They shall be greatly ashamed, for they shall not prosper.

Their everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten. But O Lord of hosts that tries the righteous, and sees the reins of the heart, let me see thy vengeance on them. For unto thee have I opened my cause.

Sing unto the Lord, praise ye the Lord, for he has delivered the soul of the poor from the hand of evildoers. Now Jeremiah was at a place in his life which many sincere believers in Jesus Christ are facing today or will have to soon go through. I don't think this classroom is avoidable.

You know, when I started in ministry as a young man, I was 33 when I went into full-time ministry, and I remember this seasoned veteran minister of the gospel came to visit me one time, and he said to me, I felt then like I was ready to take on the world. I was ready to see revival break out on every side. I was ready to preach to anything and everything that would move, and nothing seemed impossible.

And he looked me right in the eye, an older man, probably my age, and he said to me, there is a day will come when you will not think you can go another day. He says you will not, and it seems so foreign to me to say that. I mean, I I had just come out of darkness.

I had come to Christ, and there were miracles happening in my life, and the thought of coming to a place where I wouldn't be able to go forward for another day was foreign, actually, to my thinking. He said, but that day will come, and he said, when the day comes, the Lord will ask you a question. Can you do it for one more day? And all you're required to do is say, yes, Lord, and you go through the next day, and at the end of the next day, the Lord will say to you, can you do it for one more day? And he said, there's a season in your life.

It's an inescapable season in every Christian's life where you're not going to know how to go forward. There'll be no natural strength left. Your natural zeal will be gone.

You will face opposition that you can't get through in your own strength, and I remember the day when it came, when I just didn't know if I could go forward. I didn't know where I'd find the strength to go through another day, and his words came back to me. Can you do it for one more day? And there was a season in my life where that one word from the man of God carried me for many, many weeks.

Can you do it for one more day? Can you just find the strength to believe me? This is what the Lord is asking of us at certain times. 1 Corinthians 10, 13, Paul says, there's no temptation taken you, but such as is common to men. In other words, you won't go through anything that anybody before you hasn't gone through.

The devil's scheme is to try to tell you that somehow your situation is deeper, darker, more difficult, something that God never thought of has come your way. You've got a struggle too powerful. You've got walls too high.

You've got enemies too great. You can't somehow get through it, but what you're going through, the Bible tells us, is common to others. Not only have others gone through it and made it to victory, but others around you are going through it as well, and that's why it's important for us in the body of Christ not to be hypocritical, not to pretend that we're something we're not.

If anything I've learned over the years, honesty is required of a genuine believer in Jesus Christ. Folks, you don't have to put on a mask on Sunday morning when somebody says, how are you? And you don't have to put the coat hanger in your mouth so you can smile and say blessed. I know we're blessed, but there are times when just be honest.

Would you pray for me? It's been the worst week of my life. Folks, there's something so wonderful about honesty and vulnerability and a genuine care and compassion for one another, because we all have to go through times and storms. But God is faithful, Paul says, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you're able, but will with the test or the temptation make a way to escape that you might be able to bear it.

Now in the beginning of our text, Jeremiah said, Lord, you deceived me and I was deceived. Now he's not implying that God was deceptive. When you look at it in the original Hebrew text, it basically says this, Lord, you overpowered me and you reduced my ability to resist your calling.

I came into your presence and there was a drawing that I couldn't resist. And there was a calling that I knew was right. And I accepted the calling.

You overpowered my resistance is really what he's saying. And any ability I had to refrain from taking up this calling you had given to me. Now in Jeremiah's case, he was called to stand and preach in a very unpopular time, very much like we're in today.

There was a season in America, I'm sure where it was very popular to be a Christian. Everybody was turning to Christ. Everybody's talking about God.

But those days are far gone now. And we're in a season, it's an out of season time to stand for the things of God. And that's the time that Jeremiah was in.

False prophets were deceiving the people. They were believing a lie. Jeremiah saw captivity coming from all sides and tried to warn the people, but they weren't willing to listen.

And Jeremiah said, listen, I've responded to this calling, but it's brought me into a place where I've become the object of ridicule and mockery. Verse eight, he says, I've warned as lovingly as I could of the peril of how they were living and the coming judgments against it. And yet they laughed at me and chose to believe other voices.

He said, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil. In other words, there is no safety here anymore. The security is quickly leaving us.

We're about to face times. Jeremiah was telling his generation that without the strength of God, we're not going to get through it. There's going to have to be a turning to God.

And it's going to have to be a turning in truth and in genuine righteousness. But all it brought me, he said, was deeper mockery and ridicule. I was laughed at as it is.

And many of you are laughed at in the workplace. You try to live right. And all you face is ridicule and mockery.

And the ridicule and mockery is getting more vehement. It's getting more cruel all the time. It might have been a snicker, but now it's outright sarcasm and ridicule.

A young lady recently stood up in a college class and basically just shared what she felt God had done in her life, only to find that there were profanities, even from the professor in that class, being directed at her, calling her an idiot and a moron. In one of our college campuses in this country, for believing that God created the world, that God came as a man, that God went to a cross, that God died for the sins of all humanity. This is the time we're living in now.

How difficult it is for many who happen to go through these particular classrooms in our generation. Jeremiah said to God, I hurt because of the way I've been treated. I've only tried to do what you told me to do.

And it's been mostly rejected. In the beginning of chapter 20, it tells us that Pasher, the son of Emer, the priest who was also chief governor in the house of the Lord, heard that Jeremiah prophesied these things. And Pasher smote Jeremiah the prophet and put him in stocks that were in the high gate of Benjamin, which was by the house of the Lord.

Most believe that he was given 40 lashes and put in prison because of the warnings that he was bringing. And so not only was he rejected, but he felt deeply wounded. He felt hurt.

And in verse nine, he'd come to the point where he said, I'm not going to talk about you anymore. I'll, I'll, I'll, I believe, but I'm just going to be quiet. I'm not going to speak anymore in his name.

He said, but his word was in my heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones. And I was weary with forbearing and I could not stay. In other words, Jeremiah said, I decided to be quiet, but there was something in me that would not let me.

I got into a lot of trouble as a young police, a young Christian, when I was a police officer and ended up transferred down to a street platoon. And there'd just been so much flack because I was a very vocal witness for Christ that I decided to be quiet for a season. I'm just, I'm just going to, I'm just going to do my job and I'm just going to be a good cop.

And I'm just going to be quiet. I just need to rest. If you don't mind, God, I just, I just I've had so many people's fingers stuck in my faces and so many threats that I just can't handle it now.

And I just need a rest. And I remember going down and I was, we used to have in those days, what they call a parade where you had to stand, they inspected your uniform and gave you all your instructions and notes for the evening. And I remember I was standing there and it felt kind of good for a moment to be just one of the guys again.

Nobody much knew a lot about me, except that I was a Christian and I was most likely transferred there because of that. And there was one guy on the platoon who had, he was just mean. He was mean to the core of his being.

He was mean. And he would say anything to anybody at any time. It didn't matter who it was.

It didn't matter what rank. He was just that kind of a person. And he was huge too, on top of that.

And I remember going out and I have my squad car and I'm driving through the vicinity I was supposed to patrol. And I saw he was in an unmarked car and I saw him parked in a driveway of an abandoned hospital building. And the Holy Spirit said to me, go and tell him about Jesus.

And I have to be honest with you. My first response was you're God. I'm not, you go tell him about Jesus.

I could envision this guy because he was, he was quite a character and I could envision him the next night on parade. And I'm just brand new and I just want to be quiet. I want to fit in for once.

And I could just say, Hey guys, you got to listen to this. Now there's 80 guys lined up. I could just imagine what this would, and I had this vision in my mind of what he was going to do to me publicly.

If he didn't kill me privately before we got to the next night. And so I argued with God, but there's something you see when you came to Christ, the Holy Spirit came. And the Holy Spirit is not just a concept of God.

The Holy Spirit is the third person of God. He is the fire that is in your bones. Not just when Jeremiah says in my bones, it means the very fabric of my being is now, is now has another life source inside of it.

There's something greater than me. There's something greater than my heart. There's something greater than my own desires that moves me and motivates me to do what I do and to be what I am.

And so I bargained with the Lord. I said, well, listen, I'll go get a couple of coffees. And if he's still there, uh, I'll tell him.

And so I was really hoping, I have to be honest. I was really hoping he's going to be gone when I got there. And so I went and got two coffees and then he was still there, unfortunately.

So I, I drove in beside him in the driveway so that our, our windows are facing each other. And, uh, he rolled down his window and he just looked at me. This guy was never happy.

He would never smile. He would never, and he just looked at me and, uh, I handed him a coffee and he took it. And then, uh, we didn't say anything.

And so I said, well, I said to him, I might as well say this straight to you. I said, I'm a Christian. And I said, God speaks to me.

Now I didn't know if he's going to pour his coffee in through my window. And I said, the Lord told me that you need to talk to me. Now I didn't intend on saying it that way.

I, I, I intended on saying that I need to talk to you, but it came out the opposite way. And I remember thinking, wow, that's a strange statement. And so it was silent for a moment.

And then he turned, he looked at me and he said, I'm an alcoholic. My marriage is finished and I'm sitting here contemplating committing suicide. And so I shared Christ with him and led him to the Lord right there.

We prayed together, led him to the Lord. And not long after that, he went into prison ministry. And, uh, one day he called me after I was gone and into full-time ministry.

He said, Carter, I never really thanked you for what you did that night. I tried to be quiet, Jeremiah said, but I couldn't. I tried to stop speaking.

I was tired of the pain. I was tired of the rejection. I was tired of the threatening.

I was tired of what society was trying to do to me, but I couldn't stop. There was something inside of me, Jeremiah said, that caused me to have to keep speaking. In verse 10, he said, I heard the defaming of many and fear on every side report.

They say, and we will report it. And all my familiars watched from my halting saying per adventure, he will be enticed and will prevail against him and take our revenge on him. Jeremiah said, I looked around and everywhere there was evil conversation.

Fear is on the increase in people's hearts and in everything that they have to say. And opposition to truth is increasing. Conversation in our time is becoming evil.

Fear is the buzzword now of the day. And opposition to everything godly and everything truthful. When we see leaders now parading and giving out in society as if they're winning great victories, when they're constantly moving against everything that God says is right and God says is holy.

Opposition in our generation to truth is increasing. Paul tells us in the new Testament that there will be a breakout of lawlessness in our time that is almost unimaginable and opposition to everything holy, to everything godly, to everything that is right and just. And finally, the sin nature of man will come to its full fruition.

When man bit into that fruit in the garden of Eden, that he could be as God and chart his own course and determine what is right and what is wrong and what is good and what is evil. And finally, there'll be a massive outbreking in the world, a casting off as it is of restraint as humankind has seen it. It will be difficult days for the church of Jesus Christ.

It will be hard to stand for the truth of God. But I believe with all my heart, there will be a power of God available to those who make the choice to stand. The church began supernaturally and the church will finish supernaturally.

The church came out of an upper room empowered by the spirit of almighty God, given a life source, given strength that doesn't come from anything of our natural being or natural ability, astounding that generation and overturning as it is the arrogance of most of the known world of that time. And I fully believe the church will finish exactly as she began. Jeremiah said, my familiars in verse 10, he said, are watched for my halting and they look to entice me.

All my old friends wait for me to fail and fall. All my old habits are begging to come back and conquer me again. I'm afraid of what sin will do to me if it gets a hold of me again.

And I know there are people who are thinking this way today, who have come here to this house and say, I don't know how to go forward. I'm afraid to stay where I am. And right behind me, there were people who told me I'm not going to make it on this journey.

And they're just waiting to laugh. They're just waiting to point their finger and say, look, we knew it was just some new fad. It was just some new thing that you got involved in, but it's not going to last.

Old habits that I thought were conquered are trying to come back and conquer me again. And I'm afraid because the Bible says, if I go back into sin, it will be seven times worse for me than it was before. Because I knew the truth and having rejected the truth, where do you go from there? What do you do when you've walked away from truth? Where is there left to go? Where is strength to be found? What hope is there left in the world if I walk away from what I have known? This is what many saints have had to fight, folks.

Throughout time, Paul the apostle had to fight it in Acts 27, when he told the owners and the centurion of the ship, if you try to make this journey, even though it looks like smooth sailing, you are in peril. You're going to lose not only the ship, but you're going to put your lives in danger if you continue on this course. But they were determined because there was commerce at hand.

There were things to be made. There were plans that came out of the minds of men that had to be formulated and enacted. And Paul found himself in the belly of a ship ignored and hurt and ridiculed.

You can just hear the conversation as some of the soldiers maybe would go by and see this man in chains in the belly of the ship and say, you're the prophet, aren't you, that said we shouldn't take this journey? Oh, look at the sun is out. Look at the nice breeze that we're in. We've got all kinds of goods on board here, and we're going to travel the world, and we're going to prosper, and it's going to be better than it ever was before.

And you're trying to tell us that we shouldn't take this journey. You're trying to tell us that there's another haven of safety than the one that we have chosen for ourselves. Oh, you foolish man.

You could have it all, but you're trading it for just this place among captives in the belly of a ship. And Paul in that darkened place, in that place that he must have gotten to. These men were not supermen.

Even Elijah, the Bible says, was an ordinary man, an ordinary person just like you and I are. Yet he prayed, and God answered his prayer, and Paul had to be in the belly of that ship. And you can be sure that despair is trying to swallow him.

You can be sure that everything that Jeremiah has described--the evil conversation, the fear as the storm begins to happen, the opposition to truth that seems to be on all sides--is literally gnawing at his inner man

and trying to tell him, there's no point to your life. How are you going to go forward? And if you go forward, what's there to be brought to? In verse 24, Paul, in the midst of the storm, stood on the deck of that ship. And I do believe the church's finest hour is coming.

In this city and in this country, the sudden appearing of the church of Jesus Christ is going to happen, folks. There was a season, there was a storm that came, and suddenly people came to themselves and said, where is that man that told us we shouldn't take that journey? Where is that voice that said this wasn't a wise thing to do and a wise way to live our lives and chart our courses? And Paul stood on the deck of that ship, and he told them, he said, don't be afraid. He had been in prayer, and he said, a messenger of God stood beside me and said, Paul, you must be brought before Caesar.

You have a destiny, Paul. There's something that God has determined that your life is going to be and to do as a testimony of the reality of Jesus Christ, and you must be brought there. And see, that's the key.

Brought. That means moved from one place to another by supernatural means when all natural strength has come to an end. There's a point in time in every believer's life where we must be brought in the strength of God to where in our own strength we just can't go.

We must be brought. I've come to that place in my life. You're coming if you've not come there already.

When natural strength is gone, when natural zeal is over, when natural inclinations have failed, when all of the inner itches that come from what we do and why we do it and whose name we do it, have come to an end. And we've come to a place where we can't purchase the ticket, we can't row the boat, we can't get there in our own strength anymore. And that's when God says, you're going to finish your course, you're going to do exactly what I've charted your life to do, and you're going to be brought there supernaturally by the Holy Spirit.

You don't have to be able to figure it out. You don't have to know how you're going to get there. Stretch out your hands and I'll bring you there.

John 21 18, Jesus said to Peter, when you were young, you dressed yourself and you walked anywhere you wanted to go. In other words, you charted your own course. You were strong, you were impulsive, you felt that you had it all together.

But when you shall be old, you will stretch forth your hands, another will gird you and carry you whither thou wouldst not. In other words, Peter, as you're getting older, you're going to learn something. You're going to be brought to places that you can't go and places you don't want to go.

And there's no other way to get there but to stretch out your hands, let somebody else dress you or give you the strength you're going to need and take you where you need to go. Praise be to God. Oh, folks, I have to tell you, next to salvation is one of the most glorious truths that God's ever spoken to my heart.

I'm not responsible to get to the end of this journey. I'm responsible to stretch my hands out and let the one who has called me take me there by his strength, by his grace, by his mercy, by his promises, by his power, by his love, by his righteousness, by his judgment, by everything that God is. He takes me to the end of the journey so that I can put my feet up in my bed at the end of the days and say, God is good and his mercy endures forever.

In Exodus chapter 14, I want to conclude with this. If you'll turn there in your Bibles with Exodus chapter 14, the children of Israel, remember the scripture says they come out of Egypt with a high hand. That speaks to me about a hand that's nailed to a cross.

They come out with a high hand. They come out in the power of God. Think of the day you came to Christ and God finally gave you an understanding that you could walk away from your captors.

That you weren't, you didn't have to be bound by depression or suicide or pornography or anger or murder or whatever was in your heart. It didn't have the power to hold you anymore. That you could be free and you were moving to a land of promise, a place that only God can give and God has prepared for those who love him.

And you walked out with a high hand. You walked out with an assurance of victory, just as they did in Exodus chapter 14 and verse 8. It says the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel. And the children of Israel went out with a high hand.

Hallelujah. But the Egyptians pursued after them, all the horses and chariots of Pharaoh and his army and overtook them in camping by the sea. Verse 10.

And when Pharaoh drew nigh, the children of Israel lifted up their eyes and behold, the Egyptians marched after them and they were sore afraid. And the children of Israel cried out unto the Lord. Now evil pursues them to strike fear and dismay into their hearts.

That's what many are going through right now. You're being pursued by evil on every side to try to take away that testimony of God out of your mouth. And they said to Moses, because there were no graves in Egypt, you've taken us away to die in the wilderness.

Why have you dealt this way with us to carry us forth out of Egypt? Is not this the word that we told you in Egypt saying, let us alone that we may serve the Egyptians. It was better for us to serve the Egyptians than we should die in the wilderness. Remember, Jeremiah said, Lord, you overpowered me.

You took me on this journey. And I'm just so tired of the rejection. I'm so tired of the beatings.

And Moses said to the people, fear not, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, which he'll show you today. For the Egyptians whom you've seen today, you shall see them again no more forever. The Lord shall fight for you and you shall hold your peace.

The Lord will fight for you. You don't have to figure it out and neither do I. And the Lord said to Moses, why do you cry to me? Speak to the children of Israel that they go forward, but lift up thy rod and stretch out thy hand over the sea and divide it. And the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea, lift up the victory.

One more time, Times Square Church, lift up the victory of Christ. Lift up that faith and confidence that you've always had in God through Jesus Christ. Lift up that cross and put that cross and that victory of the cross right in the face of the devil, right in the face of impossibility.

Put that victory of the cross in the face of everything that stands before you and tries to tell you this far and no farther. This is the end of your life. This is the finish of your testimony.

This is as deep and as far as it's going to go. The Lord said to Moses, don't cry to me. Lift up your hand, lift up that rod that's in your hand, lift up that power that God has given to you and stretch out your hand over this place of impossibility and divide it and move into the supernatural power of God.

And the rest is history. Moses obeyed God and he lifted up that rod that God had put in his hand. It is a type of the victory of Jesus Christ.

And that which was impossible parted before him. And when they got to the other side, he lifted the rod again and the waters of that river enclosed and drowned all of their enemies. Now I've often said, if you want to know what that looked like when they passed through the sea, just hold up your Bible like this in the middle, close one eye and look right down the middle.

That's exactly what it looked like because he was holding a big Bible. He was taking his children right through the Red Sea and into the promised land. And so you might not see your way through, but you open this book and look down the center of it.

And when you've read the promises, turn it around and look the other way and say, enemies, I drown you in the pages of this book. Hallelujah to the lamb of God. Hallelujah.

God's promises are all that I need. I don't need anything else. If I believe this book, you can't pursue me.

You can't take away my testimony. You can't stop my journey. You can't take my victory.

Glory to God. Paul said, I will stand before Caesar. And even if it's just to stand there and make a declaration to a man who thinks he's God, to tell him he's not God, if that's the end of my journey, then that's good enough for me.

And the Lord said, Paul, because you've had this determination in your heart to finish this course, whether you understand it or don't understand it, and to be taken there by supernatural power, I've given you 276 people in your life. On this ship. Praise be to God.

That's the supernatural power of God. That's where evangelism is found. It's in a people like you and I, who simply cannot be stopped by adversity.

There's nothing the devil can throw in front of us that says this far and no farther. We have the word of God. We have the power of God.

We have the promises of God. And I'm going through to the other side. I'm going to finish this walk.

I'm going to finish this race in the power of my God. Hallelujah to the Lamb of God. Hallelujah to the Lamb of God.

Jeremiah chapter 20 and verse 11. He said, The Lord is with me as a mighty, terrible one. That means a powerful God.

Therefore, my persecutors shall stumble and they shall not prevail. They shall be greatly ashamed for they shall not prosper, and their everlasting confusion shall never be forgotten. We just read about it, at least a portion of it, in the book of Exodus.

The everlasting confusion of our enemies. Never forgotten. Never forgotten.

Those things that try to tell you you can't, or you can't go farther, you can't go on, you can't make it. He says, These things are going to be ashamed. They will not prevail.

They'll stumble. They'll fall. They'll not prosper.

And their everlasting confusion will not be forgotten. You see, you'll be talking about it for eternity. It will never be forgotten.

You'll be traveling through, I don't know, if we travel through galaxies, I don't know how it works in heaven. I don't need to know. I just need to know it's heaven and I'm going there.

And I know I'm going to have a story to tell, and I'm never going to get tired of telling it, of what God did, and who He was, and how merciful He is, and how humble He was to walk with me and with you, and how all of our enemies that tried to conquer us. Paul said the fears, the fears without and the fighting within or vice versa, all of these things that come on every side to stop the testimony of God could not prevail. Because in my heart and in my body, there was something of God stored there that would not let me stand still, that would not let this journey finish in defeat, that would not let you and I somehow settle into some kind of religious lukewarmness that bears no resemblance or testimony of the life of God that is given to us.

No, we made the choice to get up and move forward. We made the choice to do it one day at a time, if that's all the faith we could muster. But it was good enough.

God met us there. Oh, Lord of hosts, he says in verse 12, who try the righteous, you see my motives in my heart. He said, let me see your vengeance on them, for unto thee have I opened my cause.

And that's the confidence that you and I can have today when we say, Lord, you know my heart. You know I want to speak for you. You know that I want my life to bear some resemblance of your glory.

You know, God, I want to stand and be able to declare that you are God with a reality to that declaration. Let me see your vengeance on my enemies. Let me see you, God, bring down every lie of hell that's trying to tell me that there's no going forward.

I've somehow reached the Christian plateau, and I'm not going to ever go any higher or any farther in God. For unto thee, he said, I've opened my cause. In other words, I've brought my distress to you, and I've done it honestly, Lord.

I'm not playing. You see, this is the characteristic of all these great men and women of God in the Bible is that none of them were willing to play games with God. They're not even writing down things that were going to become part of the sacred text of scripture.

We're not willing to put down anything deceptive on these pages. Their hearts were honest, and Jeremiah says, I don't know how to go forward. I don't know how I'm going to finish this course.

I don't know how I'm going to endure the pain and the rejection, but, oh God, who tries my heart, Lord, you know that I want to finish this course in a righteous way. I'm asking you, Lord, that I may live to see your victory, that I may live to see these enemies brought down, because I've brought in honesty my cause to you. And he finishes in verse 13 by saying, sing to the Lord, praise the Lord, for he's delivered the soul of the poor from the hand of evildoers.

Sing to God. I've brought my cause to you. If I've learned anything over the years as a Christian man, is don't play the hypocrite's game with God.

Be honest. When you go to prayer, you know the irony is he already knows what you're thinking. Just have an intelligent conversation with him.

Be honest with God. If you don't know how you're going to get through, tell him, and he'll unlock it. But at the core of all of these men and women who struggled was this cry, I want to do right.

And if you have that cry in your heart, but you feel that you can't go on, I'm going to ask you today to meet me here, and we're going to pray, and we're going to believe God that hell is going to suffer a great defeat. We're going to believe it with everything in us, that you're going to be able to leave here today singing and praising because he's delivered your soul from the hand of evil, from everything that wants to crush that life of God within you. Every voice, everything that's worked its way into your mind and into your spirit that's trying to crush you.

In a moment of time, suddenly God just unlocks truth. Suddenly the hand of God is raised again. You see faith in a way, supernaturally, just supernaturally.

There's no natural way to get out of some of these battles. It's a supernatural victory. Suddenly you just simply see a way, and you start walking that way.

Think of the people on the shore of the sea when the way just opened. There was no way to figure this out, and all they had to do at that point was just walk in the pathway that God had laid out before them. It was that simple, and it still is that simple for you and I today.

Now, Father, I thank you, Lord God. I thank you, Jesus, that this is a church that is not going to go down in defeat. These are a people who are going to be victorious.

This is a testimony that will be heard in this city. These are voices that will be raised in the marketplace. These are mothers and fathers, sons and daughters whose voices will be heard in their homes.

Lord Jesus Christ, no matter how insignificant it may seem to us, you have a plan, and you will bring us to the end of that plan, and we will finish our course with joy. And, Father, we thank you, God Almighty, in Jesus' mighty name. Now, if this applies to you, what you've heard spoken today, we're going to stand in a moment.

I'm going to ask you to move forward in front of the screens in the annex or in Roxbury as well, and here in the main sanctuary. If you just come and stand at the front of the sanctuary, we're going to pray together, and we're going to believe God that we're going to be singing by the time we leave here. Let's stand, please, in the balcony.

Go to either exit, main sanctuary. Just slip out of where you are. I don't know how to go on.

Praise God. Just come, and we're going to pray. Praise God.

To rescue me from danger Interposed His precious blood
To place my inner debtor Daily I'm constrained to be
Let thy goodness guide the fitter Guide my wandering heart to Thee
Go to wander, Lord, I plead Thee Go to live, Lord, God, I love
Here's my heart, Lord, take and seal it Seal it, Lord, I implore the Lord
Till the July, till the July Thou hast blessed me Thou hast brought me to this place
And I know Thy hand

will cleave me Save me, Lord, I pray Jesus, love me when a stranger Wand'ring from the fold of God Need to rescue me from danger Love me with His precious blood Jesus, love me when a stranger Wand'ring from the fold of God Need to rescue me from danger Love me with His precious blood Hallelujah.

Hallelujah. Peace, peace Wonderful peace Flowing down from the Father above Sweep over my spirit Forever, I pray With fathomless pillows of love Peace, peace Wonderful peace Flowing down from the Father Sweep over my spirit Forever, I pray I have a word for you And it's very simple You will And sometimes it doesn't have to be complicated There's no great emotional moment Has to happen at this altar You've simply agreed with God And you've come to Him with an honest heart And the Lord says to you, you will You will finish You will be victorious You can just add whatever you want At the end of that You will inherit all the promises of God You will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit You will not be triumphed over By any power of darkness And when you get to the end of the journey You will be able to raise your hands You will have a shout of glory in your soul You will have a declaration of the faithfulness of God You will Hallelujah You will You will There's not a person here that's going to go down Under the weight of your enemies If you have an honest heart, you will God intertwines His very reputation The reputation of His name is at stake in keeping you All that you and I are required to have is an honest heart Nothing else And there are times When it's just going to be one day at a time Can you walk with me one more day?

Can you walk with me one more day? And you get up in the morning and the Lord will be there beside your bed Saying, can you walk with me one more day? I'll carry you, I'll sustain you I'll keep you, I'll give you the words to speak I will keep you from the power of your enemies You will not be triumphed over And that will be enough That has to be enough There are seasons when you can see a month ahead And it's just victory on every side But there are other days when you can't see beyond the wall That's in front of you But God will be your strength God will keep you And the testimony at the end is not about us It's about Him It's about His power, His keeping It's all about Jesus Christ Thanks be to God You are stronger We got to sing one more song before we go Hallelujah Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah Thank God for the victory Thank God for the victory Turn to a few people around you And just say, thank God for the victory Thank God for the victory Hallelujah Hallelujah, Hallelujah Thank God for the victory Thank God for the victory Praise be to God.

Thank God for the victory.

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