

March 1, 2004

Dear Pastor Shirley:

Psalm 146:5 "Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God:" This verse gives us great encouragement for our life because it promises everything that the Christian needs; help, hope and happiness. This verse is like those charts on cereal boxes that list the minimum daily requirements for health. Here we have the minimum daily requirements for spiritual health---help, hope and happiness. "Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help."

- No matter how capable and efficient you and I may be, there comes times when we need help. I have no mechanical ability, so I have to depend on the garage mechanic when my car needs repairs. I need physicians for my health needs. But God can do for us what nobody else can do. "My help cometh from the Lord."
- We have hope---Hebrews 6:19 tells us that our hope is based on the Word of God.
- Happiness comes when we are depending on Gods help and living in God's will. Happiness is never found in things. So when you have God's help and hope you will experience His happiness as well. I pray you have all these.

I was at Calvary Baptist Church on the 8th. We left on Thursday the 19th for a Mission Conference in Palm Harbor with Pastor Jim Johnson. We had a great conference as he has a growing church. Sunday night I preached the charge for carlos Suarez who has the Spanish Ministry at Calvary Baptist Church in Melbourne. This has been a busy month for Sarah and me.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Pray that we will pick up more support. May God continue to bless you as you labor for Him.

In Jesus Precious Name,
Glenn Stockton
The Pastor's Friend

Encouragement
March 2004

Good Morning Friend,

Have you ever felt you were "in the pits"? David, the Psalmist, had such feelings. One such case is recorded in Psalm 40:1-3... I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry. He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the

Lord.

David vividly described his pit as a slimy pit with mud and mire. Job, too, knew about pits. He wrote about a slimy pit in Job 9:31. In Job 33:22 he wrote about a soul pit. Our pits are often uncomfortable... sometimes almost unbearable.

In Psalm 40, David said that *God inclined unto me, and heard my cry.*

Further, notice that God's intervention included the following:

1. God gave him a **PLACE TO STAND**. David says, *God set my feet upon a rock and established my goings.* He was no longer standing on sinking sand. Nor was he standing on rumbling ground. He was standing on *a rock... a firm place.* Repeatedly in the Bible, God is called the Rock. When Paul in I Corinthians 10:4 mentioned the usage of the Rock in the Old Testament, he clearly said that *Rock was Christ.* In Matthew 7, Jesus tells the parable of the rock and sand. He taught that when storms come into our lives, we will stand or fall depending on the foundation on which we are built. The hymnist rightly states... *On Christ the solid Rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.*
2. God gave him a **SONG TO SING**. *He says, God put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.* Even in tough times, there was a song to sing. A few hundred years later, Paul and Silas, while in prison, sang a hymn at midnight. Listen to Acts 16:25, *And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.*
3. God gave him a **STORY TO TELL**. As David lived through the pit experience, he was aware that people were watching him and were responding to what they saw. It says, *many saw, feared, and put their trust in God.*

Each of us, as we travel through tough times, also have a story to tell. The story is not about us, but about HIM... about His sufficiency, His trustworthiness, and His presence. As others see us and hear our stories, some of them will turn to the Lord. What a powerful reality.

And what about you? In your tough times, expect that God will be at work. Like David, you will see that God will give you a **Place to Stand** a **Song to Sing**, and a **Story to Tell**. People will be watching and some of them will put their trust in the Lord.

Be Encouraged,
Glenn Stockton