

THE IMPORTANCE OF CONFESSING OUR HOPE IN CHURCH

- by Bro. Sreeram

Psalms 124:6 & 7:- Blessed be the LORD,

Who has not given us ^{to} to be torn by their teeth.

*Our soul has escaped as **a bird out of the snare of the trapper;***

The snare is broken and we have escaped.

The local church is a place where we can hear a word that is according to God's burden for the people gathered there. Every time we gather, we should believe that God will give us a word that we are in need of hearing. God will warn us of the traps that Satan has set for us in the coming days or traps that we might have already been caught in. For example, God might warn us of a bitterness that we have towards another person in our heart, through a local Church sermon. It is a trap that if we did not repent from, could lead to serious sins. When we hear such warnings, we should immediately repent and set things right. The psalmist here compares this escape to a bird that escapes from the snare of trapper.

Some of my childhood friends were expert bird trappers. I have accompanied them a few times in my childhood, when we used to go bird hunting. My friends used to be very careful not to make any noise while waiting to trap a bird. If they accidentally make any noise, the bird would immediately fly away. The bird wastes no time in moving from its place when it senses some insecurity. But I have observed that the *birds always make some noise* when they escape. They shout out to alert other birds that have not seen the trapper so that they might also be aware and not be trapped. That is why if you see a video of lion or tiger walking in forest, you will notice birds making a noise to alert other animals and fellow birds about the presence of a wild animal prowling about.

Now even a bird when it notices a trapper, it warns its fellow birds, how much more we who are fellow brothers and sisters in Christ should be diligent to warn others of traps set by Satan? May be there was a brother or sister who might not have heard the God's word carefully and heard about the trap, and then when we confess our hope, we may alert them.

Whenever I feel afraid of confessing my hope before others, I always think of the birds. Imagine, there is a bird that did not like the noise made by the escaping bird, then will it not suffer loss by being trapped? The same way if there is any brother or sister who gets offended because of what we confess, then the loss is theirs. Let us not worry about them.

May the Lord help us to have the right spirit to confess our hope in the church, Amen.