Discipline and Chastening—Songs in the Night

Ps 77:1 **I cried unto God** with my voice, even unto God with my voice; and he gave ear unto me.

2 In the day of my trouble **I sought the Lord**: my sore ran in the night, and ceased not: my soul refused to be comforted.

3 **I remembered God**, and was troubled: **I complained**, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah.

4 Thou holdest mine eyes waking: **I am so troubled** that **I cannot speak**.

5 **I have considered** the days of old, the years of ancient times.

6 **I call to remembrance** my song in the night: **I commune with mine own heart**: and my spirit made diligent search.

7 Will the Lord cast off for ever? and will he be favourable no more?

**8 Is his mercy clean gone for ever?** doth his promise fail for evermore?

9 Hath God forgotten to be gracious? hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies? Selah. 10 And I said, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the most High. 11 **I will remember the works of the LORD**: surely I will remember thy wonders of old.12 I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.13 Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?

14 Thou art the God that doest wonders: thou hast declared thy strength among the people.15 Thou hast with thine arm redeemed thy people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah. 16 The waters saw thee, O God, the waters saw thee; they were afraid: the depths also were troubled.17 The clouds poured out water: the skies sent out a sound: thine arrows also went abroad. 18 The voice of thy thunder was in the heaven: the lightnings lightened the world: the earth trembled and shook.

19 Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known. 20 Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

**8 Is his mercy clean gone for ever?**

Isa 63:7 I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, and the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses. 11 Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people, saying, Where is he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock? where is he that put his holy Spirit within him?12 That led them by the right hand of Moses with his glorious arm, dividing the water before them, to make himself an everlasting name?

13 That led them through the deep, as an horse in the wilderness, that they should not stumble?14 As a beast goeth down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD caused him to rest: so didst thou lead thy people, to make thyself a glorious name.

Job 35:10 But none saith, Where is God my maker, who **giveth songs in the night**;

Ps 32:7 ¶ Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

Ps 42:8 Yet the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and **in the** **night his song shall be with me**, and my prayer unto the God of my life.

Ex 15:1 ¶ Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

Jg 5:1 ¶ Then sang Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam on that day, saying, 2 Praise ye the LORD for the avenging of Israel, when the people willingly offered themselves.

Ps 149:5 Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.

Ac 16:25 ¶ And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

Ps 77:19 Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known.

Ps 89:15 ¶ Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O LORD, in the light of thy countenance.

Ps 89:7 God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.

1Ch 16:25 For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised: he also is to be feared above all gods. Ps 48:1 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in the mountain of his holiness.

Ps 96:4 For the LORD is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods.

Ps 145:3 Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.

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“Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound”

Numbers 10:10 Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God.

“Know the joyful sound” those spared to hear the sound of the trumpet on the morning of the jubilee, which proclaims deliverance to the captives, and the restoration of all their forfeited estates.

“ they shall walk”

* Walk in His Virtue
* Walk Vigorously
* Walk in Victory

Ps 77:7-9*. This is the language of a discontent deserted soul, walking in darkness and having no light, a case not uncommon.*

Isa 50:10 ¶ Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.

2Ch 20:20 ¶ And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

Ps 33:10 The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect.11 The counsel of the LORD standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

Pr 19:21 ¶ There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.

Isa 8:10 Take counsel together, and it shall come to nought; speak the word, and it shall not stand: for God is with us.

**Romans 8:31** ¶ What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us?

**Numbers 14:9** Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they *are* bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD *is* with us: fear them not.

De 20:1 ¶ When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them: for the LORD thy God is with thee, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

Job 5:17 ¶ Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:

Ps 94:12 ¶ Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;

Pr 3:11 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction:

Heb 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Re 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

One is going through a trial because of sin, another is going through a trial because God is using it for our good and His end.

God's Chastening is NOT to be confused with Man's Discipline

God uses our natural circumstances and relationships to discipline us, as He used Israel's own enemies to discipline and chasten them.

The disciplining of the Lord is comforting to the obedient submissive believer

Psalm 77:19 *Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known. 20 Thou leddest thy people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.*

Hosea 12:13 *And by a prophet the LORD brought Israel out of Egypt, and by a prophet was he preserved.*

Micah 6:4 *For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the house of servants; and I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.*

Joshua1:1 *Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,* 2 *Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.* 3 *Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.*

*De 11:24 Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be.*

13:1 *Now Joshua was old and stricken in years; and the LORD said unto him, Thou art old and stricken in years, and there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed.*

*Jos 14:9 And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God.*

*Jos 18:2 ¶ And there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes, which had not yet received their inheritance. 3 And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, How long are ye slack to go to possess the land, which the LORD God of your fathers hath given you?*

*(19) “thy footsteps are not known—20 Thou leddest thy people”*

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We find an unaccountable backwardness in people to enter on the inheritance which God had given them! They had so long been supported by miracle, without any exertions of their own, that they found it difficult to shake themselves from their inactivity. When it was necessary that all the people should go out to battle, they went with a measure of confidence, expecting miraculous help from God, and confiding in their numbers, but when each tribe found it necessary to fight for itself, in order to its establishment and the extension of its borders, it was discouraged, and chose rather a life of inglorious ease than the possession of an inheritance which would cost it much labour to conquer.

1. Joshua's rebuke came against the lukewarm, complacent and half-hearted commitment of the seven tribes in claiming their inheritance Jos. 18:2-3

They failed to come before Joshua and request their inheritance.

Complacency and sluggishness had set in. Apathy, lethargy, and indifference had gripped them. A spirit of inactivity and apathy had overtaken them. They were "at ease in Zion" and self-satisfied with what they had, at least for the moment. They lacked a zeal and dedication in laying claim to God's wonderful gift, the inheritance of the promised land.

2.    Joshua’s rebuke was sharp (Joshua 18:3). He called the leaders of the seven tribes before him, charged them with being slack and neglectful, with being complacent and half-hearted, lacking zeal and dedication. He asked them how long they would be sluggish. How much longer would they show half-hearted commitment in laying claim to the land that the Lord had given them?

3.    Joshua gave them a strong charge, a charge that established dividing the inheritance among the seven tribes (Joshua 18:4-7).

a.    The seven tribes were to appoint three men from each tribe to survey and describe the remaining land (cp. Joshua 18:11-19:51). They were to travel throughout all the land and survey the cities and landmarks, writing out a description of each significant part. This was to be a time-consuming task; nevertheless, it had to be done so that each tribe could receive its promised inheritance. When the survey was completed, they were to return to Joshua.

b.    The remaining land was then to be divided into seven parts, a territory for each tribe ([Joshua 18:5](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jos+18%3A5)).

c.    The surveyors were to respect the territory of Judah and Joseph. Their borders were not to be infringed upon Joshua 18:5

d.    The surveyors were then to bring the survey to Joshua. Once he had received an accurate description of the remaining land, he would seek the Lord's will in the division of the land among the seven remaining tribes. He would seek the Lord in dividing the inheritance through the Urim and Thummim, by casting lots in the presence of the Lord (Psalm 16:5-6) (Joshua 18:6).

e.    Joshua reminded the seven tribes of these two facts about the remaining inheritance:

⇒    The Levites were to be excluded. The Lord Himself was to be their inheritance.

⇒    The two and one half tribes of East Jordan had already received their inheritance (Joshua 18:7).

4.    As the men started on their way to survey the land, Joshua reemphasized the charge he had given (Joshua 18:8). This was necessary because of their complacency and sluggishness, their half-hearted commitment and failure to lay claim to their inheritance. Joshua charged them to go and survey the promised land. Then they were to return to him for the inheritance to be divided among all seven tribes.

5.    The surveyors obeyed, surveying the promised land city by city and dividing it into seven parts. They then returned to Joshua in the camp at Shiloh (Joshua 18:9).

6.    Joshua then went before the Lord and sought His will in dividing the land among the seven tribes, sought the Lord's will by casting lots (Joshua 18:10). And finally, the inheritance of the remaining land was divided among the seven tribes.

Complacency and half-hearted commitment.

God has given us a wonderful inheritance in Christ, but we must lay claim to that inheritance.

We will never possess the inheritance otherwise. God is not going to force the inheritance upon us. We have to reach out and claim it before it becomes ours. There is far, far more to the inheritance in Christ than just salvation. The inheritance that God gives us in Christ is the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

The Indwelling of the Holy Ghost.

1. 7 Will the Lord cast off for ever?

1Sa 12:22 For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

Ps 94:14 For the LORD will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance.

Ro 11:1 ¶ I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

1. Will he be favourable no more?

Ps 85:1 LORD, thou hast been favourable unto thy land: thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob.

Joe 3:1 ¶ For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem,

1. **8 Is his mercy clean gone for ever?**

Ps 103:17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;

Lam. 3:22 It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

1. doth his promise fail for evermore?

Heb 6:17 Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:

18 That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

1. 9 Hath God forgotten to be gracious?

Ex 34:6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

1. hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies?

La 3:32 But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.

1Ti 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. 2Ti 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Php 3:12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.