

# “A STEADFAST HEART FOR STEADY OPPOSITION”

## PSALM 57

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### INTRODUCTION

This psalm clearly is connected with the preceding:

After fleeing Gath, David went to the cave of Adullam (see title and I Sam. 22:1). David was not covered by dangers in his life, but was spurred on to trust in God. Verses 5 and 11 serve as a refrain for the psalm that punctuates and binds the psalm together: “Be exalted above the heavens, O God; *let Thy glory be* above all the earth.” David lived in a dangerous place where lions lurked and where his enemies intended to find him and destroy him.

At night he lay down with hope of deliverance, and in the morning he awoke with enthusiasm and joy (vv. 4, 8). David was pursued by God’s loyal love and faithfulness (3) that were higher than the heavens (10). Despite his precarious circumstances, **his primary focus was on God, who is and would be exalted above the heavens and the earth** (vv. 5, 11).

### **FOCUS ON GOD AND HIS GLORY AND YOUR HEART WILL BE STEADFAST EVEN IN GREAT TROUBLES.**

- I. THE CIRCUMSTANCES (1-6)
  - A. David’s need of Divine Favor—two-fold repetition of “be gracious.”
  - B. David’s Refuge (1)
    1. In the past—“I have taken refuge” [**in Thee**]
    2. In the present—“I will take refuge” [in the shadow of your wings]
      - Shows loving and tender care and protection.
      - Nothing like this in the writings of pagan religions.
    3. Until the storm passes by—and then to continue in the refuge.
  - C. David’s Recourse (2)
    1. Prayer—crying out
    2. The “Most High God”—like Abram his ancestor in Gen. 14 when he met Melchizedek
    3. The God who “accomplishes *all things* for me.”
      - His good pleasure
      - His promises
      - What David needs and desires
  - D. David’s Reward (3)
    1. God “sends” from Heaven.
    2. God saves and delivers David.
    3. Though the enemy “hotly pursues/snaps at David like a wild animal in order bring David into reproach.
    4. God even sends his best attributes: His loyal love and his faithfulness/truth.
  - E. David’s Desperate Situation (4, 6)
    1. David finds his soul/person among lions. (4)
    2. David lies down [at night] among those that “breathe out fire” in order to consume him.
    3. Men are even worse—teeth like spears and arrows, and tongues like a sharp sword.

4. Men have prepared a net for David's feet (6).
  5. David's soul is bowed down.
  6. They dug a pit for his feet.
  7. They themselves have fallen into it—**divine retribution; past tense of confident results.**
- F. David's Focus (5)
- God's exaltation is David's "overriding concern" even above his own need. Such a concern is equivalent to "hallowed be Thy name" (Mt. 6:9). Such a viewpoint of the desperate, suffering believer in itself is a victory, as we see with our Savior in Jn. 12:27-28; he did not ask for the Father to deliver Him from his hour of suffering, but for His Father to glorify His name. Such a perspective also is a "weapon against the enemy". The verse is more "praise" than it is "prayer." David's point is that God deserves to be exalted in this way because of who He is and what He has done. We need not limit the prayer to **either** a request for God's self-exaltation **or** for David's deliverance—it is **both**; but, it is a less selfish and a nobler prayer.

## II. THE CELEBRATION (7-11)

- A. His Steadfast Heart (cf. the "steady preparation" and opposition of his enemies—v. 6—"prepared" a net—same verb as twice used here for "steadfast." [as a participial adjective])
- B. His Rejoicing Spirit (7b-8)
  1. Sing and sing praises (7b)
  2. Early morning celebration (8)
    - "My glory" awakes.
    - Harp and lyre awake.
    - David awakens the dawn—a bold figure of speech. Get up and seek/worship God!
- C. His Evangelistic Fervor (9)
  1. His vision went beyond Israel (cf. Rom. 15:9)
  2. Thanksgiving and praise shared with all the world.
- D. His Majestic Subject (10)
  1. Loyal-love is great to the heavens—infinite.
  2. Faithfulness is great to the clouds—infinite.
- E. His Continual Focus (11)
  1. If God's attributes are so great (10), surely He is greater!
  2. He is exalted above the heavens, and His glory above the earth.
  3. Such is the reality of His person; it is also true of His work.
  4. What God does for David and for all His people is only evidence of who He is!

## CONCLUSION

How we need such a steadfast heart even in the midst of steady opposition and problems.

At night we must lay down with hope of deliverance, and in the morning we must awake with enthusiasm and joy (vv. 4, 8). We are pursued by God's loyal love and faithfulness (3) that are higher than the heavens (10). Despite our precarious circumstances, **our primary focus must be on God, who is and will be exalted above the heavens and the earth** (vv. 5, 11).

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