

Psalm 10 Unstoppable Faith

The more experienced with life I become, the greater I appreciate the hope that Jesus brings to the world! Have you been paying attention to the headlines this year? Could you just imagine for a moment if the top headlines and news making moments in our world were all that made up this world? I have been a Christian for a while, been a Christian preacher for a while (half of my life has been me being a pulpit in some capacity) and the more the world, turns it seems the more the hope that Jesus has given to us who believe in him gets stronger and stronger.

Some of you here this morning are less convinced of this, other are more convinced that there is nothing greater than hoping in a coming Savior. No matter where you fit on the scale of hope - full of hope or hopeless - this message is for all of us who know how to hope. How many are hoping this morning? This is a message that will ground your hope with an absolute assurance. This morning, as we wrap up our Psalm series, I want to talk to you about the Unstoppable Faith that Jesus gives.

READ TEXT

We have been in the Psalms now for 10 weeks and have given each Psalm its own week to learn what message God wants you and I to know as he speaks to us from his infallible Word. Just to remind us: Psalm 1-2 are the pillars that are holding up the Psalter. 1-2 set the standard for the world and declare the hope of the world - a coming King who will vanquish evil and usher in a reign of righteous peace. From the heights of the coming world of Psalm 1-2 we enter the valley in Psalms 3-7 where David has been lamenting due to trouble that has been over his head. When we get through the desert of Psalm 3-7, we find our oasis in Psalm 8 where we are taken up to see a view of the majesty of God. Then we learned that Psalm 9-10 are connected but Psalm 9 has to do with the death of a certain Son. We made the case that Psalm 9 was about the death of Jesus which leads us to Psalm 10.

The challenge set before us is to understand how Psalm 9-10 are related. Psalm 9, "Concerning the Death of the Son" and the trouble experienced in Psalm 10 make perfect sense if we remember what Jesus said to us as he was preparing for his own death for us. In John 16:33 Jesus says, *I have told you these things, so that in my you will have peace. In this world you will have tribulation. But take heart, I have overcome the world.*

Psalm 10 is a paradigm for many of the Psalms. This Psalm begins with despair but ends with praise. The answer to the questions proposed in verse 1, those "longing of the heart" questions, are worked out by the end of the Psalm with a bold assurance of the forever reign of God. Psalm 10 is not just a paradigm of many of the Psalms, Psalm 10 touches on a truth of those of us who love Jesus. Wasn't it Paul, who after he was stoned at Lystra went into the city and told the churches there, *through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God (Acts 14:22).*

This world is nothing but a shadow of things to come (even the good but certainly the bad). This world right now is filled with darkness but it will not always be this way. We are thankful for our police officers, firemen, EMTs, our military personnel, but one day there will be no need for

them! This world that has the constant stench of death is being undone by a Savior who has put death to death by his life from death! He isn't just masking the odor, he is eliminating it! And even now as we wait for the whole earth to be filled with his light we see the darkness fleeing unable to overcome the light that has already come and is one day soon coming.

Let's look at this text together and learn 2 truths about our Unstoppable Faith

1. Your Faith Will Have Its Moment of Shaking

Look closely at the opening of this Psalm. Remember, Psalm 9 and 10 are closely connected but look at the distance between the two Psalms. We go from *I will give thanks the LORD with my whole heart...* (9:1) *The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed a stronghold in times of trouble. And those who know your name out their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you* (9:9-10) to *Why, O LORD, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?*

Listen closely to me. When God seems distant he is **tempering** our hearts to trust in him. Not tempting but tempering - allowing us to undergo great strain to prepare us for the weight of glory. No one likes this, if it were up to us we would do things so differently, we would have the adversity ended now. Our oppression would not have even began much less be prolonged. Waiting strengthens our confidence in Him. Waiting is the exercise that God uses to take our little faith and make it great faith. We learn at the end of great times of waiting that there is an even greater God standing at the end of our waiting, who has been leading us to himself the whole time.

From the question verse 1 we get a glimpse of what gave rise to the question - the present presence of the wicked persecuting the righteous. So in the next few verse of the Psalms we get to see into the heart of the wicked, and at the center of the heart of the wicked is arrogance.

Pride keeps more men from the kingdom of God than any other thing. The entrance to the kingdom is marked by coming to the end of yourself. Pride keeps you, Christian, satisfied right where you are with God and stunts your effectiveness for Him. Let me say something again about waiting. Waiting is the antithesis of pride. Why does God make us wait? Why does he shake our faith? While we are waiting we are gradually ripped away from self sufficiency. When we are ripped from self sufficiency we are joined to complete dependence upon this God who is able to do above and beyond all that we could ever even ask or think. It is when we are waiting that we develop this unstoppable assurance that no matter the circumstances, God is enthroned forever.

So, God allows your faith to have its moment of shaking, and maybe moments of shaking. But remember that when you are being shaken, God allows it so that you can realize how great He is. And often, as Psalm 10 tells us, the shaking comes in the shape of the wicked, and so we have a look into their heart. Don't miss who it is that is persecuting and who it is that is protecting. We are being shaken by shadows and dust, but being held by light and rock. Let's look closer into the Psalm.

At the height of his acts are this thought - verse 4 - there is no God. Outwardly, he is practicing atheism, but his own thoughts betray him. Look at verse 11: *God has forgotten, he has hidden his face, he will never see it.* Sounds like verse 1 doesn't it? As the Psalm continues it is a reminder to our faith not to fall into atheism. It may appear that God is distant, may appear that he is inactive - the atheist sees this as an opportunity for evil and delights, the saints who believe this despair, but all who believe this will be not be disappointed to read the end of the Psalm, verse 16 - *The LORD is king forever and ever.*

Let's take just a moment to think about atheism just for a moment as we look into this passage. And when we follow the Psalms and look into the heart of the wicked. We have their playbook, we are not ignorant of their devices. Their devices are always in comparison with the forever reign of the LORD. Don't miss this - The Hope that we have in God is presented in the Bible as Unstoppable, enduring, forever!

- Atheism is the Root of All Wickedness
- What do we mean when we say this? Not so much a firm religious type of conviction concerning the existence of God, but the type that can trick your mind into believing you believe in God but your actions tell a different story. In other words, Atheism in practice. When we say belief we aren't just referring to some intellectual ascent, we are referring to true belief, a belief that touches your mind and your heart. James 2:19 says, *You believe that God is one you do well Even the demons believe and shudder!* Not believe in God but believe God is - there is a difference. If we were to go over and look at this passage in James we would see the context - You tell me about your faith, I will show you my faith.
- At the root of all wickedness is disbelief in God. Wait you say - what about things that have been done through the centuries in the name of God like the Crusades or the Inquisition, etc... There have been many atrocities done in the name of belief but nothing evil can be done in the name of God. How can we say this? He is righteousness, he is purity, and he is holy. James says again, *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.* (James 1:17)
- A disbelief in God gives man the free reign to do all sorts of evil, as a matter of fact, the whole enterprise of what is good and what is evil cannot be answered by man apart from the ultimate standard of good - God! No reason for the question why if no God.
- Atheism's defining characteristic is pride (2)
- A prideful man trusts in his own ways (3)
- Contra Proverbs 3:5-8 - *Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your flesh and refreshment to your bones.*
- A prideful man has a lying tongue (7)
- This is a chief tool of the wicked. Whereas a mark of the righteous is control of the tongue
- A prideful man is the center of his own universe (3 following - it all unravels after man is placed in center)
- All at the expense of all those around him

- He has no friends other than himself (9)
- A prideful man's heart is set on worshipping himself (Notice all the he says, his heart, his face, his ways...)
- verse 11 - thinks God is oblivious
- A prideful man is a man of self destruction (13)

After seeing this why be intimidated by the heat of their threats?

Armed with arrogance, the wicked come after all those who are taking refuge in God. Our faith may be shaken, but finally this morning:

2. Faith Rises Above All Adversity

Look at the Psalm. We have heard what the wicked say but now look at what the righteous say. The wicked say, Verse 11 - *God has forgotten*, but look at the confidence of verse 14 - *You do see*. Adam and Eve thought that God was not going to see them but he did. You may think that God can't see but he does. And what does he see? He sees the day when he will come and establish the righteous forever and break the arm of the wicked and evildoer, calling him to account till he finds none.

The "why" of verse 1 is never answered. The "arise" of verse 12 is not met with God rising to do anything about the present circumstances, but what do we see? We see that never once have we ever walked alone - he does see. We see that this God who did not abandon us will never leave us nor forsake us - he strengthens our hearts. Our difficulty may be great, but so is our faith. Faith will outlast adversity. Jesus has come and with him came the light of the world. The darkness tried its best to overcome him by putting him to death, but he has overcome and has promised victory for all who by faith trust in Him.

Why does faith rise above adversity? What is it that is undergirding our faith? Undergirding our faith is something that is more than a fleeting feeling, something eternal, someone walking with us, amongst us, someone eternal and infinitely greater!

What a day it will be when the reddening shadows of this life mingle with the purpling dawn of eternity when Jesus comes and the kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of our Christ all vileness, wickedness is destroyed, and we will reign with him forever and ever! Only when our soul is singing this song will be able to say with Paul, *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*

In this world we will have trouble, but take heart - HE has overcome the world

Do you have unstoppable faith? Do you believe in God?