

Have you ever known the fear of having a mortal enemy? I'm talking about someone who hates you. Maybe they are jealous of you. Maybe they envy you. For whatever reason they just want to hurt you; kill you even. You try to talk to them. You try to make it right, and barely escape with your life. They won't hear it. They live for your pain.

So, you flee. You pack up your good and family and move away. And, this person comes searching and finds you. They focus all their energy into destroying you and law enforcement and friends can't stop them. So, you move again. And again. You leave your family and go alone. You are hiding at this point.

And you are in a small nameless town in a distant state, living under the radar in a dismal, small old rent house you paid cash rent for. WHAT DO YOU DO? How do you get through it?

Hard to imagine right? Difficult to know what to say or do? Well, such was the life of a man named David. Saul, the king of Israel was jealous of him, hated him, and set out to kill him. When David fled, Saul chased. No one could stop him. David was scared.

I Sam. 19:9-11 – Saul tried to kill him, and had men watch the house to kill him.

I Sam. 22:1 – David fled. He and his closest companions were hiding in a cave.

I Sam. 22:9 – He ventured from the cave but was seen and reported to Saul. He ran again.

I Sam. 23:14 – Later after being discovered, he resided deep in the forest, as Saul pursued.

I Sam. 23:19 – Only to be ratted out again; **24:2** – And Saul pursued mercilessly.

Well, David turned to "singing and praying." He built words, lyrics to send to God in hopes that God would be the answer and God would hear him and help him through!

PSALMS – are songs and prayers, spoken and eventually written. These were not created by David while he sat upon his throne in leisure, but right in the midst of these troubling events!

Look at the opening remarks for these five psalms of David! (*Sermon on Value of Psalms*)

Ps. 52 (when he was reported to Saul)

Ps. 59 (when hiding in his house)

Ps. 57 (when hiding in a cave)

Ps. 54 (when reported and pursued again)

Ps. 63 (while hiding deep in the forest; happened a couple times)

Five Psalms have been selected, representing five particularly dark days in David's life. There are similarities, naturally, in all of these psalms. Just like there will be similarities in our prayers. But I will select just one verse from each psalm to give you inspiration to sing and pray in times of distress.

1. Psalm 52 – "*Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man? ... God endures all day long*" (**52:1**)

v.1-7 – While hiding in someone's home, being ratted out by another. He speaks strong words!

I Sam. 24:8-12 – When the confrontation came, David naturally spoke of God's Power!

No matter the adversary, God is almighty and His good defeats all evil.

2. Psalm 59 – "*Because of His strength I will watch for You, for God is my stronghold*" (**59:9**)

v1-2, 6-10 – David expects great things from God because the adversary is strong.

Psalm 9:7-10 – The harder things are, the larger the adversary, the more I proclaim this!

When life is the hardest, Watch for God's greatest! He is here and at work.

3. Psalm 57 – "*My heart is steadfast, O God... I will sing, yes, I will sing praises*" (**57:7**)

v7-11 – Well this must have had a nice echo in a dark cave! He is singing!!!

Acts 16:25 – He's not the only one. Faith is not just an IDEA... It has a VOICE!

S#70 – I will wake the dawn with praises! (Job – “Blessed be the name of the Lord” song)

While waiting for the Lord, spend some real energy praising Him.

Another song: “*Blessed be the name of the Lord*” ... “You give and take away” -- a very upbeat song by Zoe Group (acapella) - echoing the words of JOB in his sorrow!

4. Psalm 54 – “*Save me, O God, by Your name, vindicate me by Your power*” (54:1)

v1-7 – I almost put this last. This feels like a prayer. And all in, all included, pleading to God. An aimless prayer is an empty prayer. This prayer has substance and specificity.

Phil. 4:6-7 – We know this. But this demands pleading, specific details, and proper attitude. Prayer becomes our personal time of pleading for God’s hand in our lives.

5. Psalm 63 – “*Because your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips will praise You.*” (63:3)

v1-8 – No woe is me here. No doubt of a positive outcome. He thinks back on God’s works.

v9-11 – Awesomely he calls himself king. Even in this, he hopes in God’s promises!

Romans 8:37-39 – Maybe here, maybe now, but certainly in heaven! Victory is assured!

God’s love and promises are greater than anything, even life itself.

Conclusion: No, you and I don’t have mortal enemies. But we do have a spiritual entity battling us, and his work manifests in trials in this life. And yes, along the way God is allowing adversity to happen. But why? It is all a test of our faith. Satan is a loser. God only allows him to hang around, God only allows hardships for His people, to test and prove our faith in God. Like David did. Take these 5 elements of faith with you. If they got him through this, they can lead you to victory in Jesus!