

**ABATT**  
**Hope Amidst Trouble**  
 Christian Life Assembly  
 Jim Hoffman

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**Hope Amidst Trouble**

- Psalm 43:1 Declare me innocent, O God! Defend me against these ungodly people. Rescue me from these unjust liars. 2 For you are God, my only safe haven. Why have you tossed me aside? Why must I wander around in grief, oppressed by my enemies? 3 Send out your light and your truth; let them guide me. Let them lead me to your holy mountain, to the place where you live. 4 There I will go to the altar of God, to God—the source of all my joy. I will praise you with my harp, O God, my God! 5 Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again— my Savior and my God! NLT

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**Hope Amidst Trouble**

- David begins with a plea for help that almost anyone with a job, testy neighbors, or even a cranky family might pray for.
- “Declare me innocent, O God! Defend me against these ungodly people. Rescue me from these unjust liars.”
- He is being accused, ridiculed, and possibly defamed by his adversaries. He pleads for relief.

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Hope Amidst Trouble

- Next, he moves on a bit and expands his complaint into a spiritual realm by referencing God.
- He begins well by confessing God is his only safe haven, but then devolves into a complaint.
- “For you are God, my only safe haven. Why have you tossed me aside? Why must I wander around in grief, oppressed by my enemies?”

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Hope Amidst Trouble

- David “feels” like he has been abandoned by God to fend for himself and wonders why God has “tossed him aside”.
- At this point he is wrestling with his feelings – perhaps never a good thing to do.
- Our feelings are so deceptive and tend to rise and fall with every event that either goes our way or goes against us.

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Hope Amidst Trouble

**Has God really tossed David aside?**



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Hope Amidst Trouble

## So why does David “feel” as though He has?



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Hope Amidst Trouble

- He asks “why me” – a question that is probably best left unasked because if God wanted to He could offer a really good retort.
- God could say back to him, “why not you?” – who are you that thinks of himself as too good to have to endure real life?
- At this point his soul is divided – he knows God is there, but he feels as though he is in a dark place.

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Hope Amidst Trouble

- He feels rejected but knows God has not left him alone – what he knows and what he feels are at odds and he can’t seem to let it go.
- He needs to gather himself, review the truths that he knows, and take a deep breath.
- Things are never as bad as our feelings try to make them – Benjamin Disraeli said, “Despair is the solace of fools”.

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**Hope Amidst Trouble**

- **“Send out your light and your truth; let them guide me. Let them lead me to your holy mountain, to the place where you live.”**
- **Now David turns from his despair and wants to grab hold of the hope that comes from the truth of God.**
- **He asks for “light” from God – he knows what shining the light of truth on despair does.**

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**Hope Amidst Trouble**

- **This part of his thinking is really good for us to know and practice because he knows the truth of God will lead him all the way back to God.**
- **He says “Oh God, cause your light to bring me into your presence where I will see things as they are and have my hope restored”.**
- **He knows that any problem, seen in the light of God’s resources is reduced and is far less threatening.**

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**Hope Amidst Trouble**

Your word is a lamp for my feet,  
a light on my path.  
**Psalm 119:105**



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**Hope Amidst Trouble**

- Eph 1:18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, 19 and his incomparably great power for us who believe. NIV
- Sometimes we need to stop looking at our circumstances with our fleshly eyes and start sizing them up with the eyes of our heart.

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**Hope Amidst Trouble**

- Obviously what Paul writes in Ephesians 1 is a metaphor – our hearts do not actually have eyes.
- Our “heart” – that part of our inner selves that communes with God, has the ability to understand things at levels much deeper than our physical eyes.
- While the seen things are real, the unseen things are more real!

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**Hope Amidst Trouble**

- David is tired of reacting to his distasteful circumstances and he wants to act in concert with God on His promises.
- He wants to stop moping around feeling down and all distraught – he wants his life back from his critics, and from his own despair.
- That is what coming to the light does for us!

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**Hope Amidst Trouble**

- “There I will go to the altar of God, to God—the source of all my joy. I will praise you with my harp, O God, my God!”
- David is speaking of going to the altar in tabernacle – he will have to go with an offering, but he will go because he wants to be close to God.
- Fortunately, we live post cross and access to the altar of God has been “altered”. ☺

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**Hope Amidst Trouble**

- Hebrews 4:14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. 16 Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. NIV

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**Hope Amidst Trouble**

- Take in the intimate words David uses for his time with God –
- “to God—the source of all my joy. I will praise you with my harp, O God, my God!”
- God is his source of joy – God is also “my God” meaning he has a personal relationship with Him.

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**Hope Amidst Trouble**

- As we move through the Psalm it is becoming more and more obvious that David has found the remedy for the “blues”.
- Having asked for light and having been drawn into the presence of God He is now praising God instead of complaining about his foes.
- His words change, his attitudes change – despite the fact that the situation in verse #1 stands unchanged.

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**Hope Amidst Trouble**

- In many ways David’s prayer could be paraphrased as,
  - “get me to the light,
  - so that I can get to the alter,
  - so that I can be cleansed,
  - and draw close to God”.

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**Hope Amidst Trouble**



- Forgiveness of sin is not our goal – our goal is to be cleansed so that we can commune with our Father.
- Psalm 16:11 You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore. KJV

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**Hope Amidst Trouble**

- Bear in mind that David is surrounded by enemies and he's not seeking protection from them so much as he is seeking the presence of God.
- He didn't seem know that at first, but he gets there as he prays throughout the psalm.
- Sometimes we don't need His help so much as we just need Him!

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**Hope Amidst Trouble**

- The Westminster Shorter Catechism asks the question, "What is the chief end of man?" Many of us know the answer. "Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever."
- David has reached that point in verse #4 – he has been guided by God to God, and he is enjoying his time praising God.
- That is among the chief reasons for our existence.

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**Hope Amidst Trouble**

- In verse #5 David begins preaching to himself.
- And this is where it gets really good – for it is at this time in his journey that he begins to draw on his past experiences with God.
- He now begins to rehearse and remember the promises of God and the faithfulness of God.

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**Hope Amidst Trouble**

- He is not just talking to himself – he is preaching to himself and he can say “amen” to everything he says!
- Some would call this healthy self-talk, or maybe something else, but if you have been there you know what he is doing.
- Verse #5 - “Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again— my Savior and my God!”

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**Hope Amidst Trouble**

- His questions now are not for God, but for himself.
- This is the place we get to when we are ready to say, “how dumb can I be?”.
- The songwriter, Lauryn Hill, captured this exact sentiment in her song titled, “His Eye is on the Sparrow”.

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**Hope Amidst Trouble**

1. Why should I feel dis-cour-aged, why should the shad-ows come. Why should my heart be lono-ly.  
 2. Let not your heart be trou-bled. His tes-ter sword I bear. And rest-ing on His good-ness.  
 3. When-ev-er I am tempt-ed, when-ev-er clouds a-rise, When songs give place to sigh-ing.

and long for home and home, When he-nus is my por-tion? My con-stant Friend is He, just one step I may see;  
 I lose my doubts and fears, Though by the path he lead-eth, when hope with-ers in me dies, I draw the clos-er to Him, from care he sets me free;

I when-er I see in my por-tion my con-stant Friend is He.

His eye is on the spar-row, and I know He watch-es me. His eye is on the spar-row, and I know He watch-es me.

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**Questions**

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