God's Faithfulness sent

In the book of Psalms, David often recounts God's past dealings with His people. **Psalms 44:1-3 says, – "We have heard with our ears O God, our Fathers have told us, the deeds You did in their days, in days of old: You drove out the nations with your hand, but them you planted; You afflicted the peoples, and cast them out. For they did not gain possession of the land by their own sword, Nor did their own arm save them; But it was Your right hand, Your arm, and the light of Your countenance, Because You favored them."**

David knew that the people couldn't afford to forget what God has done. And you don't want to forget either. What has God done for you? Write it down, remember it. Keep God faithfulness in mind throughout the day and you will never doubt His ability to keep you through anything in the future.

Safely Home sent

Sailors navigate their ships by following the stars and birds or patterns that they see in the waves. Some still navigate without using modern devices, and they make it to their destination. Now, what do you navigate by?

Psalms 43:3 says, – "Oh, send out your light and your truth! Let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill and to your tabernacle."

Just as sure as a navigator may follow the stars at night, our lives will follow something as well. And that something should be the word of God. David had it right when He prayed that he may be led by God's light and truth. Make it your business today to follow God's light and truth as well and you will definitely make it safely home.

Free Falling

A volcano in West Java Indonesia erupted in June of 1982. Several people died and it could have been a hold lot worse. A jumbo jet carrying 240 people to Australia flew through the ash cloud and all four of its engine failed. It was flying at 37,000 feet. For about 15 minutes it lost altitude dropping all the way to 12,000 feet. So what did the pilots do when they were dropping, when they were falling? They were patient and for those 15 minutes they tried to restart the engines of the plane. And they were successful. And the engines restarted.

There are times in life when you can feel like you are sinking. Or maybe you are sinking. It may feel as if you are in free-fall. So what do you do? You restart! In the book of Lamentations Jeremiah is lamenting [mourning] the state of Israel, contemplating the judgment of God and considering the difficult state they were in. And he wrote in **Lamentations 3:40 – "Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord."**

Life will drag you down. It may be an illness in your own life or in the life of someone else. It could be a financial loss or an unexpected set-back, at work or in school. Or perhaps you find yourself caught, caught in sin in some kind of moral or ethical situation for whatever reason. And it may somehow, just kind of sneaked up on you. What do you do if that is the case? You restart!

If those pilots had not restarted the plane it would have descended another 12,000 feet and then, tragedy! But they did what they were trained to do and saved a lot of lives. If you are in free-fall, descending, instead of ascending, it isn't over. Start again, turn again to the Lord. God is merciful and gracious and He wants the best for you. Turn again to God and you will find that He has already turned to you.

Afraid?

Read the book of Psalms and you will see that there are times David expressed frustration and fear. You remember that David was king, and things weren't always well with his kingdom. Things weren't always well with him, either. But notice what he says in **Psalms 56:2-3 – "My enemies would hound me all day, for there are many who fight against me, O Most High. Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in you."**

Fear is a powerful emotion. But being able to trust, being able to be calm during fearful moments is a powerful help when fear crowds into your mind. When you are afraid, when it is so dark at times, where does your mind go? John Wesley an English theologian during the 1700's life was changed when he was on a ship in a huge storm. The Christian leaders on board had no fear during the storm, yet he was terrified. But the Christian leaders did something that caught his eye. He noticed their trust was in God.

When fear grips you, where is your trust placed, today? Trust in God just like David did. Let someone see how well you trust in God during your time of fear. It will bring peace and calmness to your heart and to those who see you. God has the power to

give you during fearful times if you will receive it. Try it today and watch fear disappear and the peace of God empower you always.

The Love of Money

Someone once said that money is the root of all evil. But of course, that is not true. Paul wrote to Timothy and he said that the problem is "the love of money." Money is ok, and it is hard to get by without it. And you can provide for yourself with it, and for others. You can support God's work and you can do good. And the more you have…well, that is often when the problem comes.

God certainly is not against wealth. He blessed David, Solomon, Abraham and Job with plenty. So, what is the challenge with money? **Psalms 62:10** says, **"If riches increase, set not your heart upon them."** The challenge is we can come to trust in money and to love money rather than looking to entrusting and loving God, whose money it is.

He gave it to us so that it can be a blessing to us. Don't let money become a curse. Many marriages and relationships have come to an end because of it. David's advice is good today. "Don't set your heart upon it."

Humility

In the United States around 80 billion dollars a year is spent on incarcerating people. Now, think of the cost, the financial, emotional and other cost involved for failed marriages and failed relationships. A marriage counselor can cost up to 200 dollars an hour.

Consider this in **1 Chronicles 12:12**, speaking of King Rehoboam it says, **"And when he humbled himself, the wrath of the Lord turned from him, that he would not destroy him altogether: and also in Judah things went well."**

Notice that, "When he humbled himself things went well." Imagine if husbands and wives were willing to do that. It would save a lot of strife and a lot of failed marriages and relationships. It's simplistic to think that humility would prevent crime, but it is true. So, where do you need to humble yourself? If God is speaking to you about something in your heart, you don't have to do it God's way, but it won't go well if you don't. But if you do, everything will turn out just fine.

Reassured

When trouble comes, it's pretty standard that some people question God and His faithfulness. Before long you may question God's existence if you are not careful. Read the Psalms and you will see that the writers had struggles too. But they were able to resolve those struggles.

It's interesting to see how they did that? In Psalms 74 it seems as though God had disowned His people. But in the next verse, **Psalms 74:12,** it says, **"For God is my king of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth."**

The Psalmist was reassured. And what reassured him? All the things that God had done for him in the past. That God divided the sea. That He's more powerful than great sea creatures. He made the moon and the sun. He made the summer and the winter. In other words, God is the creator. And that knowledge reassured the Psalmist that they were going to be ok. You may not be able to make sense of circumstances, or why things happen as they do, but you can know that God is God, no matter what. Whatever you are going through, just know that He loves you and that will never change and that you are going to be ok, too. When you read how great God is, let that knowledge uphold you, even when times are tough, especially when times are tough.

Fighting Temptation

We tell our children be careful and don't take unnecessary risk. There was a stunt man name Evel Knievel who took lots of risk when he jumped over cars, buses and you name it, he would try and jump over it. He was injured a lot and broke a lot of bones. Not surprisingly so, when you take the risks he took. If you play with fire you are bound to get burned, right?

Too many people play with temptation in the same way. They take a lot of risk and get too close to danger. They are caught with it, flirt with it, get close to it, rather than getting as far away from temptation as possible.

Jesus taught us to pray this way in the Lord's Prayer in **Matthew 6:13 – And lead us not into temptation…**You don't want to live life on the edge. You know what trips you up and Satan knows too. And He will do all that He possibly can to get you to give in to temptation. Do yourself a huge favor and keep far away as you can from temptation. You will be so glad that you did.