

What Are You Afraid Of? Part 1
The Bumpy Road of Trust¹
Psalms 55

To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments. A Maskil of David.

DOUBT: I'M NOT REALLY SURE GOD CARES.

- ¹ Give ear to my prayer, O God,
and hide not yourself from my plea for mercy!
² Attend to me, and answer me;
I am restless in my complaint and I moan,
³ because of the noise of the enemy,
because of the oppression of the wicked.
For they drop trouble upon me,
and in anger they bear a grudge against me.

ANGUISH: I'M TRAPPED AND I'M DESPERATE TO ESCAPE.

- ⁴ My heart is in anguish within me;
the terrors of death have fallen upon me.
⁵ Fear and trembling come upon me,
and horror overwhelms me.
⁶ And I say, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove!
I would fly away and be at rest;
⁷ yes, I would wander far away;
I would lodge in the wilderness; *Selah*
⁸ I would hurry to find a shelter
from the raging wind and tempest."

TERROR: I'M SURROUNDED BY MY ENEMIES.

- ⁹ Destroy, O Lord, divide their tongues;
for I see violence and strife in the city.
¹⁰ Day and night they go around it
on its walls,
and iniquity and trouble are within it;
¹¹ ruin is in its midst;
oppression and fraud
do not depart from its marketplace.

ALONE: I'VE BEEN BETRAYED BY SOMEONE I COUNTED ON.

- ¹² For it is not an enemy who taunts me—
then I could bear it;
it is not an adversary who deals insolently with me—
then I could hide from him.
¹³ But it is you, a man, my equal,
my companion, my familiar friend.
¹⁴ We used to take sweet counsel together;
within God's house we walked in the throng.

¹ Message prepared by and shared with the congregation of West Salem Baptist Church by Dr. Paul Null, Sunday, July 14, 2019. Citations from Scripture are from the English Standard Version of the Bible.

¹⁵ Let death steal over them;
let them go down to Sheol alive;
for evil is in their dwelling place and in their heart.

TRUST: IT DOESN'T COME EASY.

¹⁶ But I call to God,
and the Lord will save me.
¹⁷ Evening and morning and at noon
I utter my complaint and moan,
and he hears my voice.

TRUST: I CAN COUNT ON HIM

¹⁸ He redeems my soul in safety
from the battle that I wage,
for many are arrayed against me.
¹⁹ God will give ear and humble them,
he who is enthroned from of old,

Selah

(LET'S STOP AND THINK ABOUT THIS)

TRUST: HE'S THE ONLY ONE I CAN LEAN ON.

because they do not change
and do not fear God.
²⁰ My companion stretched out his hand against his
friends;
he violated his covenant.
²¹ His speech was smooth as butter,
yet war was in his heart;
his words were softer than oil,
yet they were drawn swords.

ENCOURAGEMENT: A PROMISE YOU CAN COUNT ON.

²² Cast your burden on the Lord,
and he will sustain you;
he will never permit
the righteous to be moved.

VINDICATION: GOD WILL MAKE EVERYTHING RIGHT.

²³ But you, O God, will cast them down
into the pit of destruction;
men of blood and treachery
shall not live out half their days.

COMMITMENT: THE LAST WORD.

But I will trust in you.

⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. ¹⁰ And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

1 Peter 5:6–10