

“Long Live the King: From Fear to Faith”
Psalm 55

6 Observations on Moving from Fear to Faith

- We speak to God on the basis of covenant, not contract. (vv. 1-3)
 - God will never “hide” from us in our distress.

You shall not see your brother’s ox or his sheep going astray and ignore them.... And you shall do the same with his donkey or with his garment, or with any lost thing of your brother’s, which he loses and you find; you may not ignore it. You shall not see your brother’s donkey or his ox fallen down by the way and ignore them. (Deuteronomy 22:1-4)

- Our audience with God is assured because of our relationship with Him, not because of our righteousness before Him.

And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.” (Matthew 6:7-9)

- God invites us to relate to Him with an honest faith. (vv. 4-8)

There is an implicit pressure to stifle our real feelings because we are urged, by pious merchants of emotional denial, that we ought to have ‘faith’ (as if the moaning psalmists didn’t). So we end up giving external voice to pretended emotions we do not really feel, while hiding the real emotions we are struggling with deep inside. (Christopher Wright)

Ultimately where your tears belong is not managed or packaged or manicured in some little confessional prayer. They belong in pre-reflective outbursts from the depths of your being in the very presence of God. (Tim Keller)

- Honesty demands real transparency in our struggles.
- Faith excludes continual whining about our struggles.
- We are right to pray for justice and the triumph of God. (vv. 9-15)
- Trust is often the fruit of persevering prayer. (vv. 16-17)

When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, strengthening the souls

of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. (Acts 14:21-22)

- God is King, and His reign is our rock. (vv. 18-19)
 - Those who refuse to repent before God will be humbled by God.
 - Those who trust in God will be delivered by God.

Righteous are you, O Lord, when I complain to you; yet I would plead my case before you. Why does the way of the wicked prosper? Why do all who are treacherous thrive? (Jeremiah 12:1)

They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (Revelation 6:10)

- The Lord's care for us is evident through Jesus. (vv. 20-23)

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (1 Corinthians 11:23-24)

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? (Romans 8:31-32)