

Do Not Forsake Me!

Joe Slater

David lived to be only 70 years old (2 Samuel 5:4, 5). Though not particularly long, his life was exceptionally turbulent. As Jesse's youngest son, David grew up a shepherd boy. By God's grace and strength, David defended his father's flock even against such fearsome predators as the lion and the bear (1 Samuel 17:34, 35).

In King Saul's service, David courageously stood up to the giant Goliath. God's faithfulness enabled David to defeat the well-armed Philistine blasphemer with only a sling and a stone. Such success engendered envy in the heart of Saul, however, so David soon had to flee for his life. Saul pursued him relentlessly, but David left himself and the entire situation in God's hands.

David became king of Israel at age 30. As if war against enemy nations were not enough, David also faced threats from within his kingdom. Even his own sons (Absalom; Adonijah) tried to usurp his throne. Their rebellions came to naught, for God was with David.

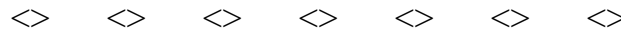
The years and hardships took their toll on David. Toward the end of his reign, he was nearly overcome in a battle with the Philistines (2 Samuel 21:16, 17). His servants insisted that he not go into battle any more, lest he be killed.

David knew what it was like to be forsaken. Friends and family had forsaken him frequently, as had the majority of Israel on occasion. Though God had chastened him from time to time, He had never forsaken David. No wonder he wrote, "*Do not cast me off in the time of old age; Do not forsake me when my strength fails*" (Psalm 71:9). "*Now also when I am old and grayheaded, O God, do not forsake me*" (71:18a).

The fear of being forsaken may be one of the worst aspects of aging. Unfortunately, family members sometimes push their aged kin aside. May God bless the devoted children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and others who honor their older relatives as they ought!

Though David was bedfast at the close of his earthly life, God was with him to the end. How comforting are the words: "*Even to your old age, I am He, and even to gray hairs, I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you*" (Isaiah 46:4).

May each of us honor our aged family members; and may we all remember that even in old age, God will not forsake us!



IS IT LATER THAN YOU THINK?

Someone prepared a timetable comparing a 70-year life (Psalm 90:10) with a 24-hour day. See what you have accomplished or left unaccomplished. Have you made preparation to live with God forever?

If you are 15, it's 8:51 A.M.

If you are 20, it's 11:08 A.M.

If you are 25, it's 12:25 P.M.

If you are 30, it's 1:25 P.M.

If you are 35, it's 2:59 P.M.

If you are 40, it's 4:16 P.M.

If you are 45, it's 5:43 P.M.

If you are 50, it's 6:50 P.M.

If you are 55, it's 8:08 P.M.

If you are 60, it's 10:11 P.M.

If you are 70, it's approaching midnight!

--via House-to-House/Heart-to-Heart

Those who belong to God have conquered

The obvious ceases to be obvious when we listen to voices that are misinformed or spouting false teaching. It was the latter who were bellowing in the first century, leaving the true children of God confused, when John wrote his first letter.

"You are from God, little children, and have conquered them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world" (1 John 4.4).

Excuse me for repeating this so often, but God is in us when we obey the word of Christ (John 14.23). In a dissolute and perverse world (as it has always been), which gives itself, unrestrained, over to carnal passions and personal pleasures, the followers of Christ do God's will and receive in their hearts the presence of the Lord.

Through his living in us, his power works to give us the victory. If we do not have the victory (note: the verb *conquered* is in the past tense!), we need to ask ourselves why. It is entirely possible that we are still rebelling against complete obedience to the Lord. In what area do we still refuse to submit ourselves to his will?

Or perhaps we do not recognize the nature of this victory. It is not freedom from trials and suffering, nor is it a comfortable financial situation or a healthy body. The victory does not consist of physical comfort. We have victory when our hearts are secure in God and spiritual peace possesses us, even when the storms of life throw their worst upon our heads.

We enter into victory because God is greater than the evil one and because he is within us, reigning in and over us.

<http://randalmatheny.com/god-conquered/>