

A person is running up a wide set of stone stairs, viewed from behind. The person is wearing a grey t-shirt with red accents on the sleeves, black shorts, and white sneakers. The stairs are made of large, dark grey stone blocks. The background is dark and out of focus.

Ascending To God

***“Moving Upwards
Towards Christ”***

Psalm 120 - 134

crying for
DELIVERANCE

Psalm 120

Crying for Deliverance

So much of what we go through in our hardships and struggles cause us to look up at this whole relationship and journey with God.

Crying for Deliverance

Our relationship with God can seem distant and disconnected sometimes because of how we feel and what we are going through.

Crying for Deliverance

How do we interact with this one that is so far beyond us, and who is so far above us, and feel that sense of closeness and nearness that He promises to us?

Crying for Deliverance

When we are going
through certain things in
our lives. . .

That is often the most
defining time we look up
to Him.

Crying for Deliverance

Our relationship with God
is vertical. . . ,

When we see it this way,
then we will see His work
and interaction played out
in our lives.

Crying for Deliverance

We must be going upward in
our journey with God. . .

Crying for Deliverance

1. Distress from Oppression

(v. 1)

2. Deliverance from Deceit

(v. 2-4)

3. Desire for Peace

(v. 5-7)

1. Distress From Oppression

*1 I call on the LORD in my
distress, and he answers me.*

1. Distress From Oppression

We don't have to look far to find those who are looking to create some type of drama or division through attacks.

1. Distress From Oppression

Jn. 16:33

"...In the world you will have tribulation:..."

1. Distress From Oppression

Distress:

It's the idea that there are those in our lives who are being difficult on us, trying to ruin things for us, or . . .

1. Distress From Oppression

. . .putting us in those tight spots where it is difficult to turn the other way and absorb that attack.

1. Distress From Oppression

There are some things for us to realize that can help us:

1. You are not alone (v. 1)
2. Our God will defend (v. 2)
3. God is at work in your life and theirs.

1. Distress From Oppression

There are also some principles that we need to establish:

1. Don't be that person
2. Don't retaliate
3. Be a blessing

1. Distress From Oppression

Question:

Do you have an upward focus in your relationship with God that moves you from the distress of your situations to dependence in Him?

2. Deliverance from Deceit

*2 Save me, LORD, from lying lips
and from deceitful tongues.*

*3 What will he do to you, and
what more besides, you deceitful
tongue? 4 He will punish you with
a warrior's sharp arrows, with
burning coals of the broom bush*

2. Deliverance from Deceit

Prov. 6:16

"There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: . . . 19 a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community."

2. Deliverance from Deceit

Have you ever had a rumor spread about you that wasn't even remotely true?

And you knew that the only reason for it was to ruin you as a person and your reputation.

2. Deliverance from Deceit

How did it make you feel at the time?

2. Deliverance from Deceit

Anger

Depression

Frustration

2. Deliverance from Deceit

All you want in the heat of that moment is deliverance. . .

2. Deliverance from Deceit

Sometimes we can be directed more by the deceit in those moments than be directed to God.

2. Deliverance from Deceit

When our names are being drug through the mud, our greatest asset is our reputation. . .

It's Not!

It is our dependency on God.

2. Deliverance from Deceit

Question:

Are you being directed upward to God and directed by Him in the midst of deceit? Or are you being directed by something else?

3. Desire for Peace

*5 Woe to me that I dwell in
Meshek, that I live among the
tents of Kedar!*

*6 Too long have I lived among
those who hate peace.*

*7 I am for peace; but when I
speak, they are for war.*

3. Desire for Peace

All of us would agree that one thing we want over the course and scope of our lives is this constancy of peace.

3. Desire for Peace

As much as we want peace in our lives and in our world, there are possibly less of us that would say we are intentional about creating peace.

3. Desire for Peace

What the change in a room with other individuals might be when you enter.

3. Desire for Peace

What steps are we taking to promote peace in our own lives and others?

3. Desire for Peace

When we are not intentional about showing peace in our lives, it will always open the door to chaos.

3. Desire for Peace

Question:

If we are truly all about desiring peace, then what proactive steps are we taking that genuinely and intentionally make that happen?

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