

### The Over Comer's Prayer Ps 61:1-4

**Intro:** We are looking at the kind of prayers we should have if we are ever going to truly be the kind of people God created us to be. First we looked at the prayer warrior that prays to become a **"Difference Maker"**. This is someone who asks God to use them to make a difference in the life of others. Then we looked at the prayer needed to call down the fire/power of God into their lives and their circumstances that prayer is the **Praying Until the Fire Falls** kind of prayer. Then last week we looked at the prayer that can actually **Transform Us**. Today we are going to look at the **Prayer of an Over Comer**.

Even born again Christians can get in a place where they feel like they are about to be **Overcome** by life's circumstances. When someone loses their job and are looking but have yet to find one and the bills keep coming in – you can be overcome by the circumstances. In our text today we read how one man faced life's overwhelming circumstances and as a result he became an **Over Comer**.

#### [Read Psalm 61/pray/dismiss Jr. Church]

The 1990 Chicago Bears did a thing they called "Splashing" in what they called "locker room wars". The smaller defensive backs and huge defensive linemen engaged in a good natured but weighty battle of intimidation. Following an exchange of verbal assaults, the big guys would try to circle and isolate one of the defensive backs or as they called them, the "Brat Pack." On most occasions, the smaller, faster defensive backs were able to strike and quickly escape; but, if captured, they paid a huge price. Defensive back David Tate, who weighed 180 pounds, was once splashed. He was dropped to the ground and the 300 pound William "Refrigerator" Perry fell on top of him. Then 270 pound Richard Dent, 275 pound Dan Hampton, and 270 pound Steve McMichael jumped on top -- 1,115 pounds of pain. "It hurts," said David Tate. "I don't think they know how heavy they are."

Have you been "splashed" recently? In his book *Margin: Restoring Emotional, Physical, Financial, and Time Reserves to Overloaded Lives*, Dr. Swenson says splashing is perhaps the consummate picture of the overloaded lives most of us are experiencing. "Overloading" is a painful experience. Yet in one form or another – whether emotionally, physically, or financially – it happens daily to nearly every one of us; it is a national and international epidemic. Not surprisingly, the March 6, 1995, issue of Newsweek cover story was entitled, "Exhausted." Swenson writes:

"The spontaneous tendency of our culture is to inexorably add detail to our lives: one more option, one more problem, one more commitment, one more expectation, one more purchase, one more debt, one more change, one more job, one more decision. We must now deal with more 'things per person' than at any other time in history. Yet one can comfortably handle only so many details in his or her life. Exceeding this threshold will result in disorganization or frustration. It is important to note here that the problem is not in the 'details'; the problem is in the 'exceeding.' This is called overloading.

"Overloading occurs whenever the requirements upon us exceed that which we are able to bear. For example, camels are able to carry great loads. If, however, a mere straw is placed on a camel maximally loaded down, its back will be broken. The back is not broken by the proverbial straw, it's broken by overload."  
(Richard A. Swenson, M.D., *Margin*. NavPress: 1992.)

In our text today it appears that David was "overloaded". When he wrote this Psalm his son Absalom had set out to kill him and set himself up as king. As with many of his Psalms David begins this Psalm sad and down hearted, he is "overwhelmed" by what is going on. David had been driven out of his kingdom and feared for his life when he penned this psalm. He says in verse 2 "when my heart is overwhelmed" David was more than overloaded, he was overwhelmed. He was overwhelmed physically because he was always on the run, he was overwhelmed emotionally because it was his own son trying to kill him and take over the kingdom that God had given him and he was overwhelmed spiritually because he knew that what he was facing was the result of the sin he had committed with Bathsheba.

You know we can get in a place spiritually where our heart seems to not want to be comforted, where the circumstances of life seem to overwhelm us. However there is hope! God never leaves us without hope regardless of what the situation may appear in the natural. It is at these times when we need to become an over comer and that is what David was; he was an over comer and in the Psalm we see what it takes to become an **Over Comer**.

What does it take to become an **Over Comer**?

### An Over Comer...

#### 1. Knows *Who To Turn To When He Falls Overwhelmed* Vv. 1-2a+

- A. Cry = 'A piercing Cry' or 'a ringing cry' sometimes it means a joyful shout or a shout of triumph
- 1) What we see here in V1 and 2a is the beginning of a prayer of someone who was certain of the outcome
  - 2) It was audible
  - 3) It was in a language that would be produced by deep distress
  - 4) A cry of someone who was overwhelmed by the wait of sadness and in real need of mercy
- B. It also is seen as a cry that is not content with just presenting his requests
- 1) He wasn't going to stop at just giving God his sorrow and walk away
  - 2) He wanted an actual audience with the God of heaven
  - 3) He not only says '*Hear my cry...*' but he also says '*attend unto my prayer*'
  - 4) This is not the prayer of one who is not sure of whether God actually hears his prayers
  - 5) It is a prayer of someone who expects his prayer to not only be heard but to be answered.
- C. Many Christians walk around overcome by their problems because their prayer life is like that of the Pharisees.
- 1) They would pray make very eloquent prayers in the Temple only to turn around after presenting their request to God and go and try to resolve the problem themselves.
    - (a) They seemed satisfied by just speaking the problem
    - (b) In fact many of them wouldn't even make their real needs known to God because they thought to do that made them somehow less holy.
  - 2) Today we have many in churches who are like this
    - (a) They are satisfied when they have said their prayer
    - (b) They never really expect them to be answered
    - (c) They feel that somehow to expect God to really answer is, well out of line.
- D. When spiritual Christians pray they pray expecting an answer
- 1) A true child of God knows that since they have become adopted son or daughter of the King that there is nothing He won't give them
  - 2) They pray as if they know that God has heard every word of their prayer then they live knowing that God will answer.
  - 3) They expect an answer
    - (a) They know that Jesus says **"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: <sup>8</sup>For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened"** (Matt. 7:7-8).
    - (b) They also know that, **"all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive"** (Matt. 21:22).
    - (c) Of course they also understand that, according to James we **"ye have not, because ye ask not"** James goes on to say in the next verse, **"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts"** (James 4:2=3).
  - 4) They have all confidence that they have been heard and the prayer will be answered
  - 5) This is what David understood when he asked **"Attend unto my prayer."**
- E. David also knew that he was never so far out that God cannot or will not hear him.
- 1) When he prayed this prayer he was still in exile due to Absalom's rebellion but he knew the distance from the temple did not make him out of ear shot of God
    - (a) His distance from the sanctuary was not a problem
    - (b) His own despondency was not a problem
  - 2) Like the Verizon commercial David had made it a practice to always be connected to God in prayer.

- 3) He was always asking "Can you hear me now?" knowing that the answer was a resounding **YES!**
- 4) In Psalm 139:7-10 David makes it clear that he know there was no place where he would be out of touch with God, "**Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.**"

#### **An Over Comer...**

##### **2. Has A History With The One Who Can Overcome His Problems Vv. 2b-3**

- A. The rock David speaks of here just might be David's looking forward to his Messiah – Jesus, it might be a real rock that was someplace near by where he know he would be safe from those who sought to kill him
- B. I choose to believe that it is Jesus he is speaking of; Jesus the Rock that Paul speaks of in 1 Cor 10:4.
- C. Regardless of which Rock David is speaking of he says that this rock was higher than he was
  - 1) He saw the rock so high that he couldn't reach it without God's help
  - 2) He know that on top of the rock he would be able to overcome his problems
- D. God's power and promises are higher than we are
  - 1) The rock is Christ and those who are in Christ Jesus the Rock are safe
  - 2) We cannot get to that Rock that is higher than we are we need God's power to get us there.
- E. The same is true of the Rock of Jesus
  - 1) We cannot get to Him on our own
  - 2) John 6:44 says "**No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him...**"
  - 3) We who are saved didn't just wake up one day and say, "Well, I guess today I'll accept Jesus as my savior."
  - 4) No, the Holy Spirit of God has to draw a sinful man to the cross
  - 5) The Holy Spirit of God has to convict sinful man of his sinful life
  - 6) The Holy Spirit of God has break the haughty spirit of sinful man to draw him to the cross
  - 7) When we humble ourselves and admit we are sinners willing surrender our will and turn from our sinful ways and come to the cross; to that rock that is higher than I then we will becoming to that Rock David is speaking of
- F. When we are lead to that rock He will over come our problems
- G. Notice that David says in the past tense that the Lord "**has been a shelter...and a strong tower...**"
  - 1) He knew who he had to turn to and he knew the one that had overcome his enemies in the past and he knew he would do it again
  - 2) He was not turning to an untried, untested, unknown savior
  - 3) He was turning to the one he knew would help him overcome his problems because he had done it in the past

#### **Finally, An Over Comer...**

##### **3. Knows Where He Needs To Be To Avoid Being Overcome V.4**

- A. Listen to what David says in verse 4
  - 1) Abide here literally means "**to be a house guest for the night.**"
    - (a) David wanted to be a house guest in God's house; one he built himself.
    - (b) Since he was not a priest David had no access in to God's house
    - (c) But David, being a spiritual man was able to seen beyond the rites and rituals and look to the realities they symbolized.
    - (d) He wanted to be God's house guest
  - 2) He doesn't stop at being a house guest for the night, however, he goes on to say, "**I will be a house guest for the night in Your tent forever!**"
- B. He also says I will trust in the hiding place of Thy wings."
  - 1) What is he talking about here? He is talking about the mercy seat
  - 2) In the temple the wings of the cherubim covered the mercy seat.
  - 3) He was thinking of the security a person would enjoy who could creep in as a house guest of God in His pavilion, stay there forever, and know the overshadowing protection not merely of the wings of an anointed cherub, but of the eternal, uncreated, self-existing God Himself.
- C. The word "**Selah!**" means "**There, what do you think of that!**"

- 1) This is a statement of a man who has entered into a dimension of spiritual understanding rarely grasped by many Christians today.
  - 2) Though he was troubled by the fact that his own sins had brought all these sorrows on his head.
  - 3) He knew the treachery of his one heart
  - 4) He decided to flee to the one safe place in the universe for one who's heart is overwhelmed
  - 5) David know that the only place his trouble heart would find rest was in the house of God.
- D. In essence he was inside the veil – that is where we who are saved are because when Christ died the veil was torn in two.
- E. He was between the cherubim and the heart of God.
- F. **In essence he was saying, “Now then, who or what can get me now?”**

**Conclusion:** If you feel overwhelmed to day by life's cares wont you turn to the one who can help? You see to be an over comer we need to: ***Knows Who To Turn To When He Fells Overwhelmed, Know The One Who Can Overcome Our Problems*** and if we want to avoid as many of life's burdens then we need to ***Know Where We Should Stay To Avoid Being Overcome,***