

Psalms 40:1-3 For the director of music. Of David. A psalm.

v1 I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry.

v2 He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire;  
he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.

v3 He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD.

## **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOD ANSWERS PRAYER!!!**

Have you ever felt trapped in a seemingly helpless or hopeless situation? I imagine many a feeling that way since the arrival of Covid.

Many have lost loved ones. 68 BU pastors and wives in the last two years. Normally we lose 10-15 per year.

Many have lost jobs or are struggling to make ends meet. For the poorest of the poor, the average price for necessary foods has increased by R100 over the last year. Petrol was R14.57 last November R19.54 this year.

We are not sure exactly when David wrote this Psalm. Perhaps when he was running away from Saul or maybe when he had to hide from his own sons Absalom. You can withstand attacks from your enemies, but when your own family is against you, it must feel horrible.

As we consider the subject of our message today

## **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOD ANSWERS PRAYER!!!**

I want you to know

### **I. GOD KNOWS WHAT YOU ARE FACING**

#### **1.1 HE KNOWS YOU ARE WAITING**

David describes a time of waiting in his life. It was a time when David was waiting on the Lord to move and deliver him from his terrible circumstances. He was unable to help himself, so he was forced to wait on the Lord.

**The bible is full of examples of waiting.**

Saul was rejected as King because he refused to wait for Samuel, God's prophet, before making an offering in I Sam 13

*Psalms 27:14 Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.*

*Psalms 33:20 We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.*

*Psalms 37:34 Wait for the LORD and keep his way. He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you will see it.*

*Psalms 119:166 I wait for your salvation, O LORD, and I follow your commands.*

*Proverbs 20:22 Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong!"  
Wait for the LORD, and he will deliver you.*

*Lamentations 3:26 it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.*

*1 Corinthians 1:7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.*

*1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.*

*Jude 1:21 Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.*

*Isaiah 30:18 Yet the LORD longs to be gracious to you;  
he rises to show you compassion.  
For the LORD is a God of justice.  
Blessed are all who wait for him!*

GOD KNOWS WHAT IT MEANS TO WAIT. GOD WAITS PATIENTLY  
FOR HUMANITY TO RESPOND TO HIS INVITATION OF  
SALVATION

## **HE KNOWS YOU ARE WAITING**

### 1.2 **HE KNOWS ABOUT YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES**

David calls his trouble a “**slimy pit, of mud and mire**” The Hebrew words used here describe to “sludge” that collects at the bottom of a dam or cistern over many years of use.

If you have ever cleaned out a swimming pool that has stood for a long period of time you will know what I am talking about. As you move the decomposing material, it often smells like someone with very bad breath.

We must never forget that our Saviour and Lord, Jesus also found himself in the “**slimy pit, of mud and mire**” and he did nothing to deserve being in that place. When Jesus cried out “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me.”, he was identifying with us in every way, BECAUSE OF OUR SIN.

## **HE KNOWS YOU ARE WAITING**

## **HE KNOWS ABOUT YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES**

### 1.3 **HE KNOWS WHERE YOU ARE**

David says “**he turned to me**” Friends, David felt as if he had been abandoned by God.

Do you realise that God is the one who saved you? You did not save yourself. Listen to this verse.

*Ephesians 2:1-3 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, v2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. v3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.*

DEAD PEOPLE CANNOT DO ANYTHING

## I. **GOD KNOWS WHAT YOU ARE FACING** **HE KNOWS YOU ARE WAITING** **HE KNOWS ABOUT YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES** **HE KNOWS WHERE YOU ARE**

## II. **GOD SAVES YOU FROM WHAT YOU ARE FACING**

### 2.1 **HE HEARS YOUR CRY**

David says, “**he turned to me and heard my cry**” Friends, David felt as if God had HEARD HIM.

*Genesis 21:17 God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there.*

*Exodus 2:24 God heard their groaning and he remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob.*

*Judges 13:9 God heard Manoah,(Samson's Father) and the angel of God came again to the woman while she was out in the field; but her husband Manoah was not with her.*

*2 Chronicles 30:27 The priests and the Levites stood to bless the people, and God heard them, for their prayer reached heaven, his holy dwelling place. (Hezekiah's Reforms)*

### **HE HEARS YOUR CRY**

### 2.2 **HE LIFTS YOU OUT OF THE MUD** ***v2 He lifted me out of the slimy pit***

You see, if a legalist came by and saw a sinner in a pit, he would preach a sermon about the dangers of the pit.

If a religionist came by a saw that same sinner in that pit, he would talk about steps the sinner could take to help him get out of that pit and avoid other pits in the future.

If a pessimist walked by, he would tell that sinner that he is going to die in that pit.

If an optimist passed by, he would tell the sinner that he had seen worse pits than that.

If a realist walked by, he would tell that man to just accept his pit.

If a spiritualist came by, he would tell the sinner that there is no pit.

But, if Jesus came by, He would get into the pit with that sinner and lift him out.

*Ephesians 2:4-9 **But** because of his great love for us, **God**, who is rich in mercy, v5 **made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions**--it is by grace you have been saved. v6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, v7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. v8 **For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- v9 not by works, so that no one can boast.***

I. **GOD KNOWS WHAT YOU ARE FACING**  
**HE KNOWS YOU ARE WAITING**  
**HE KNOWS ABOUT YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES**  
**HE KNOWS WHERE YOU ARE**

II. **GOD SAVES YOU FROM WHAT YOU ARE FACING**  
**HE HEARS YOUR CRY**  
**HE LIFTS YOU OUT OF THE MUD**

III. **GOD GIVES YOU SOMETHING YOU DON'T DESERVE**

3.1 **HE GIVES YOU SECURITY AND BELONGING**

David says, "***he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.***"

Listen to this verse.

*Ephesians 2:19-20 **Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, v20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.***

**HE GIVES YOU SECURITY AND BELONGING**

### 3.2 **HE GIVES YOU PURPOSE**

David says, “*he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.*”

David says in Psalm 37:23-24 If the LORD delights in a man's way, he makes his steps firm; v24 though he stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand.

### **HE GIVES YOU SECURITY AND BELONGING** **HE GIVES YOU PURPOSE**

### 3.3 **HE GIVES YOU A HEART OF PRAISE**

David says, “*v3 He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.*”

*Ephesians 2:21-22 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. v22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.*

*1 Cor 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*

*Romans 11:36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.*

*1 Chronicles 16:28-29 Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength, v29 ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name. Bring an offering and come before him; worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness.*

## III. **GOD GIVES YOU SOMETHING YOU DON'T DESERVE**

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### **HE GIVES YOU PURPOSE**

### **HE GIVES YOU A HEART OF PRAISE**

## **Conclusion**

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**HE KNOWS YOU ARE WAITING**

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### II. **GOD SAVES YOU FROM WHAT YOU ARE FACING**

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**HE LIFTS YOU OUT OF THE MUD**

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