

Ephesians 2:4-6 “**4 But God** is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much, **5** that even though we were dead because of our sins, **he gave us life when he raised** Christ from the dead. (It is only by God’s grace that you have been saved!)

**For he raised us** from the dead along with Christ and **seated us with him** in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.”

#### v. 4-5a **DIVINE INTERVENTION**

- A. **God’s Intervention Is Personal** – The words “**But God...**” are filled with glory, power and meaning.

Those two words, just six little letters, one conjunction and one personal noun, may just be the greatest words in the Bible. Those two words tell us where salvation originates. It originates in the Person of God.

Those two words tell us who initiates salvation. Those two words mark the difference between life and death, between a life of turmoil and a life of peace, between a life of sin and sorrow and a life lived to the glory of God.

ROMANS 5:17 “For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even **greater MUCH MORE**) is God’s wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in **triumph over sin** and death through this one man, Jesus Christ.”

There is way more grace, way more righteousness at work than sin in this world. It is all about who you listen to.

We are experiencing another example of the MUCH MORE OF GOD IN ASBURY!

ALERT! You reign now, not just when you die! You live your life from a place of authority not poverty.

HEBREWS 6:11-12 “ Our great desire is that you will keep on loving others as long as life lasts, in order to make certain that what you hope for will come true. <sup>12</sup> Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God’s promises because of their **faith and endurance.**”  
NIV,NKJV says patience

**TITLE: HEART OF PATIENCE**

How do I inherit God's promises? Faith, endurance, patience. Remember the message, The Pace of Grace? Everyone has a different pace, but it is all contingent on moving forward.

How many of you have said, "God give me patience! And HURRY!"  
Patience is not sit back and wait. It is constant and progressive

2. **God's Intervention Is Precious** – Look at the next phrase: *is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much.* Let's take a moment to think about what Paul is saying here. He mentions the fact that God is "**rich in mercy.**" The word "**rich**" refers to "**an overabundance, that which is without measure, unlimited**". This characteristic suggests that God possesses an overabundant, measureless, and unlimited quantity of "**mercy**".

The word "**mercy**" refers to "**goodness or kindness toward the miserable and afflicted, coupled with a desire to help them.**" Jesus was marked by His mercy while He walked this earth. Many times the Bible says that He was "**moved with compassion**" as He looked upon those who were helpless in their afflictions and in their sins. On those occasions, His mercy compelled Him to reach out in love and do something to alleviate the sufferings of those He felt mercy towards.

He does the same thing in salvation. Look at **verses 1-3**.

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. <sup>2</sup> You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. <sup>3</sup> All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else.

There was never a more afflicted or miserable group than those described in these verses. In spite of their wicked, fallen condition; in spite of their continual rebellion; in spite of their sinfulness and morally depraved state, He looked upon them with mercy in His heart.

THANK GOD JESUS WAS PATIENT WITH HIS PEOPLE~

I should call this "The *us* of Christianity". This relationship is all about partnership, working and living together, side by side with Jesus! Nibble on that for a while! Sip on that! Soak in the revelation of what that looks like in 2023!

What makes the love of God so amazing is the object of that love. **Verse 4** says “*wherewith He loved us.*” The “*us*” in that phrase refers to those who are redeemed from among the lost multitudes described in **verses 1-3**. It speaks of the “*us*” who did not love Him. It speaks of the “*us*” who lived in constant rebellion against God’s Word, His will and His ways. It speaks of the “*us*” who deserved His judgment and eternal damnation in Hell. It speaks of the “*us*” who hated Him but loved our sins. It speaks of the “*us*” who turned away from Him in open, unrestrained rebellion. He loved “*us*”!

You get to choose your chair! It is your choice to be raised up to sit with Christ or remain and sit with the devil!

Your perspective changes from that vantage point! You are above it all, Ruling, reigning

- B. **God’s Intervention Is Profound** – Notice when God’s divine intervention occurred. **Verse 5** says it was “*even when we were dead in sins...*” God did not wait until we improved our condition. He did not wait until we reformed. He did not wait until we got better. No! He set His love on us while we were still dead in our sins. He loved us in spite of our wickedness. He reached down to us when He knew that we could not, and would not, reach up to Him. God’s love does not make any sense to our mortal minds.

Jesus never gave up on us and we should never give up on ourselves, our neighbors, friends, family and foes. BE PATIENT

Galatians 6:9 So let’s not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we **don’t give up.**

I want you to go home and bring back all your towels! Why? So, you won’t ever throw in the towel again! LOL

Spoiler Alert! The church is here to be an influence, set the standard, raise the stakes.

The space between the anointing and the appointing can be difficult and discouraging. You may feel like it’s a delay and you may want to take the next detour but take heart the delays are not the denials!

Remember David was the least! All 7 of his brothers were rejected but David became the unsung hero. Sure, he was distracted from time to time, but he was determined to put a demand on his destiny.

## 1 Samuel 18:1-7 New Living Translation

### Saul Becomes Jealous of David

**18** After David had finished talking with Saul, he met Jonathan, the king's son. There was an immediate bond between them, for Jonathan loved David. **2** From that day on Saul kept David with him and wouldn't let him return home. **3** And Jonathan made a solemn pact with David, because he loved him as he loved himself. **4** Jonathan sealed the pact by taking off his robe and giving it to David, together with his tunic, sword, bow, and belt. **5** Whatever Saul asked David to do, David did it successfully. So, Saul made him a commander over the men of war, an appointment that was welcomed by the people and Saul's officers alike. **6** When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed the Philistine, women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy with tambourines and cymbals.<sup>[a]</sup> **7** This was their song: "Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!"

Favor always follows the faithful!! Promotion follows those with patience.

1 SAM 18:8 This made Saul very angry. "What's this?" he said. "They credit David with ten thousands and me with only thousands. Next they'll be making him their king!"

1 SAM 19:1 Saul now urged his servants and his son Jonathan to assassinate David. But Jonathan, because of his strong affection for David,

Not everyone will be excited about the hand of God on your life. (Even in the church)

Jealousy and entitlement will always try and stick its ugly head in.

## 1 Samuel 21:10-15 NLT

**10** So David escaped from Saul and went to King Achish of Gath. **11** But the officers of Achish were unhappy about his being there. "Isn't this David, the king of the land?" they asked. "Isn't he the one the people honor with dances, singing, 'Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands'?"

<sup>12</sup> David heard these comments and was very afraid of what King Achish of Gath might do to him. <sup>13</sup> So he pretended to be insane, scratching on doors and drooling down his beard. <sup>14</sup> Finally, King Achish said to his men, “Must you bring me a madman? <sup>15</sup> We already have enough of them around here! Why should I let someone like this be my guest?”

Can you connect with David? All is good then BOOM! People are out to get me!

## 1 Samuel 22:1-4 New Living Translation

### David at the Cave of Adullam

**22** So David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. Soon his brothers and all his other relatives joined him there.<sup>2</sup> Then others began coming—men who were in trouble(**Distress**) or in **debt** or who were just **discontented**—until David was the captain of about 400 men.(400 degenerates)<sup>3</sup> Later David went to Mizpeh in Moab, where he asked the king, “Please allow my father and mother to live here with you until I know what God is going to do for me.” <sup>4</sup> So David’s parents stayed in Moab with the king during the entire time David was living in his stronghold.

Here is David, called to be a king and in all the confusion he is confined to a cave. Have you been there? Called to be a conqueror but confined to a cave. David became captain of 400 men who were in the same or worse condition than he was.

One of these weeks I want to re-preach a message called, CAUGHT IN A CAVE  
He went from the Penthouse to the Poophouse!

David lost everything over night! Career, wife, closest friend, mentor, personal safety (He never lost his calling) When you feel down to nothing, God is up to something.

Adullam means Justice to the people, a hiding place, a hold  
From a Hebrew word “dallah” to dangle.

It was from the cave that he became King. HOW DID DAVID FEEL? Confined to a cave when you’re called to be a king. Certainly doesn’t look like a palace to me. Like, how did he process this position of pain? His testimony is found in the Psalms!!

### **A Plea for Relief from Persecutors A Prayer when he was in the cave.**

**142:1-2** "I cry out to the Lord with my voice; (not moans groans and grunts)  
With **my voice** to the Lord I make my supplication. <sup>2</sup> I pour out my complaint before Him; I declare before Him my trouble."

### **Psalm 57 NKJV**

#### **Prayer for Safety from Enemies**

*To the Chief Musician..” A Michtam of David when he fled from Saul into the cave.*

57 Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in you,  
And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until *these* calamities have  
passed by. <sup>2</sup> I will cry out to God Most High, To God who performs *all things* for me.  
<sup>3</sup> He shall send from heaven and save me; He reproaches the one who <sup>Ⓜ</sup>would swallow  
me up. *Selah* God shall send forth His mercy and His truth. <sup>4</sup> My soul *is* among lions;  
I lie *among* the sons of men who are set on fire, whose teeth *are* spears and arrows,  
and their tongue a sharp sword. <sup>5</sup> Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; *Let Your*  
*glory be* above all the earth. <sup>6</sup> They have prepared a net for my steps; My soul is bowed  
down; They have dug a pit before me; Into the midst of it they *themselves* have  
fallen. *Selah* <sup>7</sup> My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast;  
I will sing and give praise. <sup>8</sup> Awake, my glory! Awake, lute and harp! I will awaken the  
dawn. <sup>9</sup> I will praise You, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing to You among  
the <sup>Ⓜ</sup>nations. <sup>10</sup> For Your mercy reaches unto the heavens, And Your truth unto the  
clouds. <sup>11</sup> Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; *Let Your glory be* above all the earth.

### **1. Pour out your heart to God**

Psalm 22:1 My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?  
*Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?*

Psalm 25:16 Turn Yourself to me, and have mercy on me, For  
I *am* desolate and afflicted.

David is not turning to friends, Facebook tweets or twits. HE is not saying how bad his life sucks all over social media. HE TURNS TO GOD!

When you are stuck in the middle of your promise and your promotion, you may experience some pain in the process.

When you're down and out, depressed and lonely, isolated on your own island of misery and disappointment it is in that time you take a detour and turn off the distractions and run to JESUS, the author and perfecter of your faith! He is your source of strength. He will never leave you orphaned and abandoned! I promise!!!

The truth is you can do all things through Christ that strengthens you!  
The truth is if God is for you no one can stand against you. They can say what they want, post what they want. No weapon formed against you shall prosper! Hide behind your shield of faith!

We as a church are standing in the gap for a breakthrough in Bridgewater. I'm holding on to the promise to possess the promise land. What is your promise land? Anything to stake a claim too! We are not defeated or deflated! We are destined to occupy until HE COMES.

**Psalm 31:9-10** Have mercy on me, Lord, for I am in **distress**.

Tears blur my eyes. My body and soul are withering away. <sup>10</sup> I am **dying** from grief; my years are shortened by sadness. Sin has **drained** my strength; I am wasting away from within.

**Psalm 42:5** Why am I **discouraged**? Why is my heart so **sad**? I will put my hope in God! I will praise him again

David is a mess! In distress, dying, drained discouraged and sad! Yet who can relate? Come on ! How many times have you asked God WHY?

To get to where you want to go, you have to start from where you are.

Every destination began with a starting point. Weight, Fitness, Business adventures, spiritual adventures, even Nascar has a starting point. If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there.

I wonder what David thought about when he was in a cave, called to be king, remembering when the anointing oil was poured on his head and now

he is running for his life? Can you hear the echos in the cave? GOD  
WHERE ARE YOU NOW?????

### **Real intimacy demands honesty.**

Just get alone and honest with God.

My question is, why can't we have honesty without gossip? Is there anyone you can trust anymore and just be brutally honest without them talking behind your back, looking down on you and judging?

TIP! Always complain vertically not horizontally.

## **2. An open heart gains fresh vision**

Psalm 142:3 Why am I discouraged? Why is my heart so sad?  
I will put my hope in God ,I will praise him again

### **Psalm 61:1-3 (NKJV)**

Hear my cry, O God; Attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.

### **Psalm 57:2-3 New Living Translation**

<sup>2</sup> I cry out to God Most High, to God who will fulfill his purpose for me.

<sup>3</sup> He will send help from heaven to rescue me, disgracing those who hound me. My God will send forth his unfailing love and faithfulness.

Did you know that you are a container, a vessel, a barrel, to which God will not just fill but fulfill his purpose in you and through you?



You will get a vision when you open your heart, your mind, and your will to God. You will see God for who he really is, not how the marketing world and movies portray him.

Dr, Martin Lloyd Jones “ Have you realized that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself.”

We have to change our language! Joyce would call it stinkin thinkin. You need a check-up from the neck up.

### Psalm 103:1-5 New Living Translation

<sup>1</sup> Let all that I am praise the Lord; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name. <sup>2</sup> Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me. <sup>3</sup> He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. <sup>4</sup> He redeems me from death and crowns me with love and tender mercies. <sup>5</sup> He fills my life with good things. My youth is renewed like the eagle's!

God gets to frame my way forward. Never let your friends alone frame your faith or your future for you. God will fulfill his purpose for you.

WRITE THIS DOWN: When you process with God you invite God into the process.

### **3. Vision results in divine action:**

#### **Psalm 57:8-11 New Living Translation**

<sup>8</sup> Wake up, my heart! Wake up, O lyre and harp! **I will** wake the dawn with my song. <sup>9</sup> **I will** thank you, Lord, among all the people. **I will** sing your praises among the nations. <sup>10</sup> For your unfailing love is as high as the heavens. Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds. <sup>11</sup> Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens. May your glory shine over all the earth.

David went from conquered to conqueror while still in a cave.

### **Psalm 57:7 New Living Translation**

<sup>7</sup> My heart is confident in you, O God; my heart is confident. No wonder I can sing your praises!

**KJV** <sup>7</sup> My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.

**MESSAGE**<sup>7-8</sup> I'm ready, God, so ready, ready from head to toe, Ready to sing, ready to raise a tune: "Wake up, soul! Wake up, harp! wake up, lute! Wake up, you sleepyhead sun!"

I'm Ready for Revival. I'm impatient, tired of waiting.

Babe Ruth said, "it is hard to beat a person who never gives up"

Ludwig Van Beethoven said, " I will seize fate by the throat; it shall certainly never wholly overcome." He wrote the 9<sup>th</sup> symphony when he was totally deaf. He felt the notes from the inside

### **Acts 20:22-24 New Living Translation**

<sup>22</sup> "And now I am bound by the Spirit<sup>a</sup> to go to Jerusalem. I don't know what awaits me, <sup>23</sup> except that the Holy Spirit tells me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead. <sup>24</sup> **But my life is worth nothing to me unless I use it for finishing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus—the work of telling others the Good News about the wonderful grace of God.**

### **James 1:3-4 The Message Faith Under Pressure**

<sup>2-4</sup> Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don't try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work, so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.

