

My Place of Absolute Impossibility
Psalm 40: 1 – 8
February 21, 2010

We all have this place – a place I call my place of absolute impossibility. It is that place where, unless God intervenes, I know nothing good is going to happen; all my human efforts have failed, and the only one who can rescue me is God.

My place of absolute impossibility might take on many shapes: perhaps it is an addiction to drugs or alcohol; perhaps it is a splintered, wounded relationship; or even an illness that, having invaded, is advancing relentlessly despite the best efforts of medical experts.

We all have them, those places of absolute impossibility. Sometimes those places represent a hidden sin; despite numberless attempts to repudiate and eradicate that scourge on your soul – every stillborn New Years resolution, every tearful day-after pledge – it simply adds to the sense of helplessness.

King David surely could understand your predicament; he had his personal place of absolute impossibility. We find it in Psalm Forty. He describes himself in a pit of mud, and every effort to escape serves to push him deeper into the pit. David's experience can teach us about our place of absolute impossibility. Let's read Psalm 40: 1 – 8 (read).

If David were standing before you today, he would begin by saying, **Only God can rescue me in my place of absolute impossibility (Psalm 40: 1).**

Yes, this is the same David who fought the giant Goliath when no other Israelite would; the mighty warrior king who conquered lands and people. And yet this same David needed God to rescue him!

This tells me it does not matter what type of power you may possess, or how many people you command, or how much money is in your bank accounts, or even how much influence you exert over others, there invariable will come a time when you will face a challenge that cannot be overcome unless God comes to your rescue.

Notice that David waited *patiently* in this place of absolute impossibility. How do you wait? Do you even wait at all? Some of us squirm, pace around like a caged lion, toss and turn all night. Some of us try to make deals with the world – as if the world can rescue us (or even care).

David waited, and God responded. I want you see what David learned about God in his place of absolute impossibility:

When God intervenes in my place of absolute impossibility:

1. He will leave no doubt He is at work in my life (v. 2)

A. God removed David from the place of his impossibility.

1. From the slimy mud to a solid rock; from a place of instability to a place of stability; there was no doubt God was at work.

B. If you have a question whether it was God at work in your life, chances are it wasn't God. When God works in your life, He removes all doubt it was Him.

C. Look at some Biblical examples that show God at work:

***God gave Abraham a son at age 99** – It could only be God.

***God told the Israelites to march around Jericho 7 times** – it could only be God.

***Jesus told a handful of Jewish men, most of them fishermen, to go tell the world about Him** – only God could make such an undertaking a success!

When God intervenes in my place of absolute impossibility...

2. I will experience a new freshness in my relationship with Him (v. 3)

A. David says, “The same old response to God will never do now. I have a new song in my heart, and a renewed freshness in my soul because God has done marvelous things for me.”

B. Relationships can grow stale. The same voice that once thrilled you to hear on the phone, can over time fail to stir you at all.

C. God doesn't want stale relationships with His people.

1. He allows these absolute impossibilities to occur in our lives for a purpose: to turn our hearts back toward Him; then He can do something great so you will once more have a fresh response to Him.

D. How is your relationship with God? Is it alive and fresh or is it dull and stale?

1. Perhaps you haven't waited patiently for God to do something significant in your place of absolute impossibility.

When God intervenes in my place of absolute impossibility...

3. There will be a renewed desire within me to serve Him (vs. 7 – 8)

A. David is struggling with how best to express his gratitude to God for rescuing him.

1. He considers the outward religious rituals of his day – animal sacrifices; meal offerings; burnt offerings and the like – as a way to show his gratitude. But he concludes God doesn't want rituals; He wants genuine from-the-heart obedience.

B. Has what God has done for you renewed your desire to serve Him?

Finally, when God intervenes in my place of absolute impossibility...

4. Others will see and trust God (vs. 3 – 5)

A. God is totally trustworthy; His plans for His children are all around us. In fact, they are too many to count!

B. And then David says something else: when I wait for God to come to my aid, others will see that and be strengthened in their trust in God.

1. That says to me God wants to do great things in my life for strategic reasons: so that others will witness His actions in my life and will trust Him in their own lives.

As we examine David's experience in his personal place of absolute impossibility, we detect some key words: patiently waiting; renewed desire; trust and obedience. Without those key words becoming our motto, that place of absolute impossibility will be darker and more threatening than ever. God loves you, has always loved you; and nothing in this world can cause Him to cease loving you. The divide between you and God is not of His making. It exists because you have stopped trusting, waiting, and desiring that relationship with God. He is as close as that uplifted prayer!

