

### PSALM 32 – PART 3

Psalm 32:6-7 ... “For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to you in a time when you may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they shall not come near him. You are my hiding place; you shall preserve me from trouble; you shall surround me with songs of deliverance.”

Many people find it hard to admit to God that they have sinned. Some even think they can hide their sins from God. These are people who do not really know God, for if they knew him, they would not be so foolish to think they can hide from him. Not only do people who believe such things need forgiveness for their sins, but they need salvation. David tells us in verse 6, that “everyone who is godly shall pray to You.” This marks the difference between believers and unbelievers. Believers know to whom they must turn when they sin. They may be reluctant to do it because of the shame of their sin, but they know it is necessary and that no one else has the power to forgive them of their sins against God. Yes, when we sin against people, we have the power to forgive one another. But sins against God require his forgiveness.

The second part of verse 6 states: “In a time when you may be found.” There is a moment in time when you realize you have sinned, and your heart is troubled. You feel the weight of your guilt and shame. Perhaps someone has pointed out to you that you made a serious mistake and you feel the embarrassment of that. Perhaps you were caught by your mother doing something wrong, or by your boss. At that moment you know you are in trouble, but it is also the moment when God is closest to you and ready to embrace and comfort you; eager to forgive you. That is the very moment when you should admit your mistake. But if you let that moment pass and argue or defend yourself, you begin the process of being hounded by your guilt and separated from God. God will not be in the presence of sin, so he must separate himself from you until you repent. David tells us in the last part of verse 6 that we will be protected from even the waters of a great flood if we remain connected to God.

Verse 7 is David praising God for being his refuge (“hiding place”) and keeping him from further trouble following his sincere confession of sin and repentance. How often have you confessed your sins to God and then praised him for his deliverance of you from guilt and trouble? This step is natural if you have honestly confessed, sincerely repented, and have then been forgiven by God. But, if your words are empty and you have hidden some of your sins from God, you will not feel like praising him. The praises come naturally when you feel the heaviness of God’s hand lifted from you and he confirms to you his forgiveness. If you feel it necessary to ask your pastor or priest if God has forgiven you, then you probably have not been forgiven, because you did not honestly confess and repent. You will not need a man to tell you when you are forgiven. And, when God does forgive you, your praises to him will come naturally and authentically.

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