

August 28, 2016 PM at Hillcrest Bible Church

The Father Hears Him Pray

Fourth message in a series of 5 on the hymn *Arise, My Soul Arise*

Perhaps there is no trial so subtle and full of subterfuge that when everything goes smoothly. We hope and pray for such times of God's blessings as well we should. There may be joy in grace recognized and a road with few obstacles. Our friends may be many, finances stable, and we may be in good health. We spend our sunny afternoons wading in the tickling surf of these blessings.

Yet, all are seemingly harmless waves that mask the quietly approaching tsunami. Were it not then for the grace of God, the tsunami of sorrow due to **recognized lukewarmness and coldness of heart**, would sweep us out to sea, far from the warm sands of assurance.

In God's due time, when His hour has come, the big fish of **recognized coldness of heart** vomits our faint body onto the sands, and under the blazing sun we now sweat **remorse** and **contrition**. We sweat so, not because of our condition, but because of **recognition**. The illuminating rays of the Holy Spirit have filleted our heart, exposing it to view.

Perhaps you've come this evening in this condition; being made keenly aware of a coldness of heart. Or perhaps the Lord will awaken you through this message to your condition. Or perhaps your trial has been laid upon you through some other source. Either way, it is to you I want to speak.

Charles Wesley (1708-1788), wrote the five verses of this Psalm in the spirit of three verses found Psalm 42 and 43, where David *takes himself in hand*. He does this in two steps. First, he asks his discouraged soul a **question**. Second, he gives an **answer** to his soul. This is a very important principle and practice in the life of the believer.

Psa 42.5: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again (in spite of all things) praise him, my salvation

v. 11: Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again (in spite of all things) praise him, my salvation and my God.

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The words of this hymn will be ineffective if we do not sing them to our own souls.

More often than not, what is needed for the despairing soul, is not some new knowledge about God, but rather, a bringing to remembrance and wiping off the dust of something that is **already known**.

Nestled in this hymn is this 4th verse, which does not appear in our hymnals. Yet, it very well could be the most important. That is, while verses 1-3 and 5 primarily speak comforting words to the discouraged believer, v. 4 points that believer to **how God and the Holy Spirit feel about Christ**. **All of the hopes of the believer hinge on this Divine relationship**. Without God's and the Holy Spirit's benevolent cooperation with Christ, our faith would be in vain. This 4th verse places this truth under the magnifying glass. Notice how each line expresses this Divine relationship.

Fourth Verse

The Father hears Him pray.

John 11.41-42: So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me.

42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me."

Q Have you lately taken your afflicted soul in hand by reminding it, not about how IT feels about Christ, but how **the Father** feels about Christ; about the **Object** of your faith?

The only trustworthy barometer of the value of Christ is not our feelings about Him but, about God's feelings about His Son.

His dear Anointed One:

Matt 3.16-17: And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;

17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

- Q Have you lately taken your afflicted soul in hand by reminding it, not about how IT feels about Christ, but how **the Spirit** feels about Christ; about the **Object** of your faith? Have you reminded yourself lately that your faith is an exercise in futility were it not for how the Spirit feels about the **Object** of your faith?

He cannot turn away the presence of His Son:

Psa/詩篇 16.10: For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your **Holy One** see corruption.

Acts/使徒 2.24: God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was **not possible** for him to be held by it.

- Q Have you taken a moment lately to take your afflicted soul in hand by reminding it, not about how IT feels about Christ, but how **the Father and the Spirit** could never turn away Him on whom all your hopes and holy aspirations rest?

His Spirit answers to the blood. And tells me I am born of God.

1 Notice which relationship Wesley places first; the relationship of the Holy Spirit to Christ, **after which** His relationship to believers follows.

2 Speaking in human terms, When the Holy Spirit first caught sight of the blood of Christ, He became your soul's town crier.

"Earthling! See yonder flowing blood. I, and I alone can decipher such deep and hidden speech. I, and I alone am its mouthpiece. In my distinguishing grace I now divulge its secret to your heart, in a grammar babies can understand. "You are indeed a child born of God!""

3 Have you forgotten lately something you learned on the day of your birth? That is, it is only the voice of your dear Saviour whose language the waves of your storms obey. They are charmed by none other. When His Spirit speaks, *Peace. Be still*, great calm prevails.

- Q Have you lately, with one hand, covered your mouth, and, with the other, cupped your ear, to hear the Spirit answering Christ's blood with the distilling dew of His words upon your parched soul?

1 John/ヨハネ 5.6-8: This is he who came by water and blood--Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.

7 For there are three that testify:

8 the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree.

John/ヨハネ 15.26: "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.

Rom/ローマ 8.16: The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.