

Thought for Today: August 17, 2007

Psalm 20 (NASB)

**May the LORD answer you in the day of trouble!
May the name of the God of Jacob set you securely on high!
May He send you help from the sanctuary
And support you from Zion!
May He remember all your meal offerings
And find your burnt offering acceptable! Selah.**

**May He grant you your heart's desire
And fulfill all your counsel!
We will sing for joy over your victory,
And in the name of our God we will set up our banners.
May the LORD fulfill all your petitions.**

**Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed;
He will answer him from His holy heaven
With the saving strength of His right hand.
Some boast in chariots and some in horses,
But we will boast in the name of the LORD, our God.
They have bowed down and fallen,
But we have risen and stood upright.
Save, O LORD;
May the King answer us in the day we call.**

It is often suggested that this psalm is offered for a king who is getting ready to go to battle. But before the battle begins, someone offers up this prayerful encouragement on the king's behalf. What is the goal? Victory! How will victory be gained? By the mighty hand of God.

Each of us has some kind of battle before us. There's no need to give examples; we're all too aware of the challenges of this life. But this psalm has no hint of dejection or anxiety. This psalm is all about confident assurance that the Lord will save His anointed. The odds may seem to rest with the enemy, but the Lord our God will graciously share His victory with us.

Wouldn't you like to receive this kind of blessing? Wouldn't it encourage you and strengthen your faith to have someone pray this kind of blessing over you? It's a powerful psalm of faith and assurance, and it makes my day better just reading over it again. Why don't you read it once more as a confident prayer for someone who is going through a trying time. Who knows, somebody may say this prayer today for you.

In Him,
Patrick Barber