

Reading Through Psalm - My Thoughts and Comments

Psalm 35: 1; 9-10; 27

New International Version

Contend O Lord with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me.

The Message

Harass these hecklers, God, punch these bullies in the nose. Grab a weapon, anything at hand; stand up for me!

But let me run loose and free, celebrating God's great work, Every bone in my body laughing, singing, "God, there's no one like you. You put the down-and-out on their feet and protect the unprotected from bullies!"

But those who want the best for me, Let them have the last word—a glad shout!—and say, over and over and over, "God is great—everything works together for good for his servant."

The Lord does not want us to seek avenge ourselves; he does not want us to strike back at those who have struck us but instead, to allow him to avenge as he sees fit. Such a position on our part is not natural; it is natural to protect and defend that which is our own be it family, property, or ourselves - which is why we find it so difficult to follow God's instruction and let forgiveness take the place of revenge. We must trust by faith and through the Spirit that in such a circumstance, he will provide the strength to not strike back even though such is our inclination.

Even the poor are rescued from those who are seemingly stronger. Realize that by "rescue", the outcome is God's love poured out for the oppressed, the downhearted, the infirmed and all others who have a relationship with and cry-out to Jesus. Though suffering is evident in our lives (in our world), the mercy of God is sufficient to enable such rescue, such freedom, and such love for mankind. By appointment and design, God did not choose the wealthy or the strong by the world's standard; rather, he chose the poor and the weak - those who needed him and desired him as Lord of their lives.

Yes, the Lord delights in his obedient children; and when we disobey, he still loves us and desires that we submit to his will as Lord forever.

H. Kirk Rainer