

“I sometimes think that the very essence of the whole Christian position and the secret of a successful spiritual life is just to realize TWO things... (1) I must have complete, absolute confidence in God and (2) no confidence in myself” (Martyn Lloyd Jones).

Someone may ask, “But why should I rise early?” To remain too long in bed is a waste of time. Wasting time is unbecoming of a saint who is bought by the precious blood of Jesus. His time and all he has is to be used for the Lord. If we sleep more than is necessary for the refreshment of the body, it is wasting time the Lord has entrusted us to be used for His glory, for our own benefit, and for the benefit of the saints and unbelievers around us... Anyone who spends one, two, three hours in prayer and meditation before breakfast will soon discover the beneficial effect early rising has on the outward and inward man.

(George Mueller)

THESIS — David’s in a tough situation; whatever God brings, David resolves to THANK GOD.

>>> **As we start a new year let’s: Resolve to Thank God!**

1. My TROUBLE (1-3)- note the me/my
2. My THEOLOGY (4-5) - here’s what I *know*
3. My RESOLVE (6-7) - But as for me, *I will*

>>> simplify it: (1) I NEED! (2) I BELIEVE! (3) I WILL!

I. MY TROUBLE! (1-3)

The key words: me...me...my...my... me

II. MY THEOLOGY! (4-5)

*Here’s what I *know*.*

- * God is my Helper!
- * God is my Sustainer!
- * God is the Repayer!
- * God is the Destroyer!

III. MY RESOLVE! (6-7)

It is only fitting to praise God, because in the face of troubles and foes the Lord Is Good!
(Tremper Longman, Willem VanGemeren).

I will **sacrifice!**

I will **thank!**

Ponder this:

- ✓ Ps 54 is not technically a “Messianic Psalm” speaking of Christ, pointing to Christ and His life.
- ✓ However: it certainly could be a psalm that Jesus knew, loved, memorized and carried with him thru the sorrows and difficulties of His own life.

PSALM 54: PSALTER

Tune: "O the deep, deep love of Jesus"

1. By your name, O God, now save me;
 Grant me justice by Your might.
 Listen to my words, give answer;
 O my God, now hear my prayer.
 Strangers have come up against me,
 Ruthless men who seek my life.
 They disdain the God of heaven,
 But my helper is my God.

2. See how God the Lord upholds me;
 He repays my foes their wrong.
 In Your truth, Lord, bring their ending;
 Then thank off'rings I will bring.
 I will praise your name with gladness,
 For your name, O LORD, is good.
 He has saved me from all trouble;
 I in triumph see my foes.

*Words: "The Book of Psalms for Singing", 1973 Board of Education and
 Publication of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.
 Music: Thomas Williams (1869-1944). Public Domain.*

ABIDE WITH ME

1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
 The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
 When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
 Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day
 Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
 Change and decay in all around I see;
 O Thou who changest not, abide with me.

3. I need Thy presence every passing hour:
 What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
 Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
 Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me!

4. I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
 Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness;
 Where is death's sting? where, grave, thy victory?
 I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

5. Hold Thou Thy cross, before my closing eyes;
 Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
 Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows
 flee;
 In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Words, Henry F. Lyte (1793-1847), Music, William Henry Monk (1823-1889).