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# Surrounded!




We know the old story line, "We've got you surrounded! Come out with your hands up!" Surrounded. No way out. No hope of escape.

Sometimes we may feel that way. Grief from loss, loneliness from a difficult or shattered relationship, guilt from sin, from things we have done or not done, difficult decisions about today and the future. We can't see a way out. We feel like putting our hands up and giving up.

There is hope.

Psalm 32 is a Psalm in which king David praised God for His forgiveness, deliverance, and restoration of hope and joy. It opens,

> "How blessed is he whose wrongdoing is forgiven, whose sin is covered! How blessed is a person whose guilt the Lord does not take into account, and in whose spirit there is no deceit!"

As he draws the Psalm to a close he sings,

> "he who trusts in the Lord, lovingkindness shall surround him. Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous ones; and shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart."

Another translation renders this as,

> "unfailing love surrounds those who trust the Lord. So rejoice in the Lord and be glad, all you who obey him! Shout for joy, all you whose hearts are pure!"

This Psalm may have been written some time after David's sin with Bathsheba and all the sin that flowed after that, as well as his confession to God (see Psalm 51).

King David learned and experienced the truth that God's unfailing, steadfast love surrounds His children, and we experience it, feel and know it as we trust Him, no matter how bleak the situation, or how hopeless we feel.

Our part is to make the right choice. When it comes to sin, ignoring, silence and covering up only draw us deeper into despair. Earlier in Psalm 32 David testifies,

> “When I kept silent about my sin, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my vitality failed as with the dry heat of summer.”

The right choice is to confess and repent of sin. The right choice in grief and pain is, like Job, to cling to God, to cling to the hope we have in God even when it seems that hope itself is impossible.

We can choose to surrender to the troubled situation and feelings that surround us or surrender to God, trusting Him and His unfailing love that surrounds us.

No matter how dark the clouds are that you face, God is able to take you through so you can rest in Him and shout for joy again. Yes, “Weeping may last for the night, but a shout of joy comes in the morning”, as king David wrote in Psalm 30. And also yes, the long dark nights can be very dark and very long. But God will lift you up to the dawn and the full sun of joy and hope.

Wherever you are at today, however you are feeling, trust God, obey Him, step by step. He will not fail you. He will bring you through. His unfailing lovingkindness surrounds you.

