

Adaptive Confidence in the Presence of Steadfast Love



NOTES

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Hebrews 13: 5b-8: . . . For He has said, **“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”** So we say with **confidence**, “The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?” Remember your leaders, who spoke the Word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.**

Psalm 86 [A Prayer of David]: Hear me, O LORD,^a and answer me, for I am poor and needy. Guard my life, for I am faithful to You; save Your servant who trusts in You. You are my **God**;^b have mercy on me, Lord, for I call to You all day long.

⁴Bring joy to Your servant, **Lord**,^c for I put my trust in You. You, **Lord**, are forgiving and good, abounding in [**steadfast**] love to all who call to You.

⁶Hear my prayer, O LORD; listen to my cry for mercy. When I am in distress, I call to You, because You answer me. Among the gods there is none like You, Lord; no deeds can compare with Yours. All the nations You have made will come and worship before You, **Lord**; they will bring glory to *Your Name*. For You are great and do marvelous deeds; You alone are God.

¹¹Teach me Your way, O LORD, that I may rely on Your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear Your name. I will praise You, **Lord my God**, with all my heart; I will glorify *Your Name* forever. For great is Your [**steadfast**] love toward me; You have delivered me from the depths, from the realm of the dead.

¹⁴Arrogant foes are attacking me, **O God**; ruthless people are trying to kill me — they have no regard for You. But You, **Lord**, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in [**steadfast**] love and faithfulness.

¹⁶Turn to me and have mercy on me; show Your strength in behalf of Your servant; save me, because I serve You just as my mother did. Give me a sign of Your goodness, that my enemies may see it and be put to shame, for You, **O LORD**, have helped me and comforted me.

^a LORD = YHWH “Yahweh” (about 6,800 times used): *Jehovah, Covenantal, Dependable, Promise-Keeping, He who is*

^b God = El and Elohim (about 2,600 times used): *Creator, Transcendent, Strong One, Judge, Foremost one, He after whom one strives*

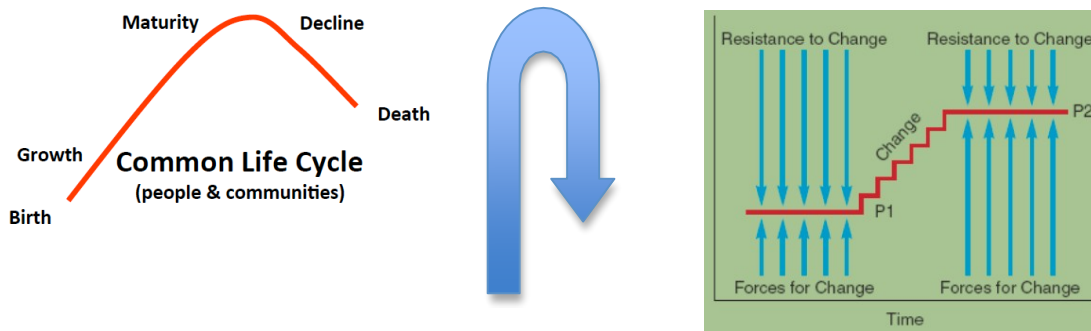
^c Lord = Adonai (about 439 times used): *Master, Sovereign, Owner, Possessor, Lord, Ruler*

Notice from Psalm 86:

- **Prayers:** For attention; for safety and salvation; for joy and renewal; help in distress and deliverance; for teaching that leads to integrity and glorification; for strength, goodness and comfort, remembrance of the enduring character of God and His past deeds (13, 17).
- **Names of God:** Your Name - Yahweh (LORD), Elohim (God), Adonai (Lord)
- **Character of God:** Personal, guardian, saviour, merciful, trustworthy, forgiving, good, worship worthy, loving, great, distinctive, faithful, fearsome, rescuing, compassionate, gracious, strong, patient, helping
- **Disposition of Petitioner:** seeking, poor, needy, faithful, trusting, servant/learner, discerning/discriminating, desirous of mercy and whole-heartedness, worshipper, aware of enemies/people challenges (14), desirous of vindication and evidence (signs) of things hoped for (15), oscillating between fear of man and fear of God. **PETITIONER YEARNS FOR PRESENCE OF GOD**

Pulse of our Lives (Rocket Science) and Change Dynamics

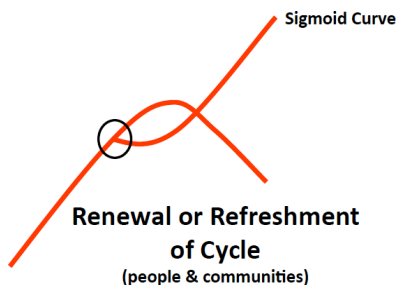
“If no ups and downs then there is no life”



Our Experience of Polarities, Paradoxes and Tensions: North/South --- Hills/Valleys -
 -- Consolation/Desolation --- Constancy/Change --- Ebb/Flow --- Rise/Fall --- Chaos/Order
 Challenge/Adaptation --- Depression/Celebration --- Suffering/Thriving --- Abandon/Embrace -
 This/That --- Exhale/Inhale --- Act/Rest --- Hope/Despair

Proposition: Humans thrive on change but desperately avoid loss. We were made to change; whereas God “changeth NOT” – We need His steady love and presence to live into our circumstances and complex challenges.

Our Typical Responses to Changes: Resistance/Reluctance/Resilience/Persistence



When is it time to renew and adapt? When do we start adapting? When do we cease to grow?

Declaration:

It is the Person of God, His Character and Presence that make it possible for us to have ADAPTIVE CONFIDENCE AND WARRANTED HOPE

Essence of Message:

In the midst of our changing and challenging experiences, our adapting to circumstances and polarities of life, and in the transformations that are integral of our lives we can know and experience the **steadfast, unwavering love and presence of God**. He graciously hears our prayers, anchors and draws up our oscillating lives as we worship Him and commit ourselves afresh to His service.

We are made to adapt, change and transform – God is neither made nor is He at all like us in this respect. In contrast, He is our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer. He is who He is, has been and ever will be and He acts accordingly, consistently, and lovingly with His unchanging moral and natural attributes AND His promised presence – he will NEVER leave us nor forsake up (Heb 13:5b-8: I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of My hand – Jn 10:28)

Romans 8:31-39: ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, **[nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

1. What do our **prayers sound** like? (What might be learned from Psalm 86?)
2. To what extent **do we KNOW** the person and character of God, in Jesus Christ? (What does Psalm 86 have to say to me about who my God is?)
3. How might we **characterize our dispositions** as we express our dependence on God? (What do these Scriptures teach me our my own dispositions toward God?)
4. How might we **better foster or practice the presence of God** in our lives and experience the adaptive confidence to walk in a manner worthy of our callings?

Romans 15:13 (Message Version): Oh! May the God of green hope fill you up with joy, fill you up with peace, so that your believing lives, filled with the life-giving energy of the Holy Spirit, will brim over with hope!

Lawson Heights Alliance Church