



## Drawn Up by Steadfast Love

The Dynamics of Our Unchanging God's Love for His Ever Adapting People

Dr. Keith Walker

Keith.Walker@Usask.ca

Minister-at-Large C & MA, Mid West District

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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.**

**Psalms 86** [A Prayer of David]: Hear me, **O LORD**,<sup>a</sup> 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**;<sup>b</sup> have mercy on me, **Lord**, for I call to You all day long.

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

<sup>6</sup>Hear 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.

<sup>11</sup>Teach 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.

<sup>14</sup>Arrogant 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.

<sup>16</sup>Turn 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.

<sup>a</sup> LORD = YHWH "Yahweh" (about 6,800 times used): *Jehovah, Covenantal, Dependable, Promise-Keeping, He who is*

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

<sup>c</sup> Lord = Adonai (about 439 times used): *Master, Sovereign, Owner, Possessor, Lord, Ruler*

### Essence of Message:

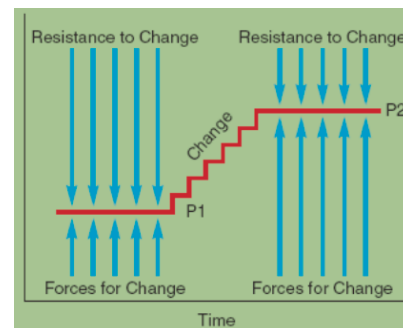
1. In the midst of our changing and challenging experiences, our adapting to circumstances and polarities of life, and in the transformations that are integral of our lives we can know and experience the steadfast, unwavering love of God. He graciously hears our prayers and anchors and draws up our oscillating lives as we worship Him and commit ourselves afresh to His service.
2. 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.

### We should Notice:

- Prayer
- Names of God
- Character of God
- Disposition of Petitioner: Servant/Learner
- Emotions: Fear of man and fear of God and nature of trust (stage-wise, past platform for future)

**Adaptive Confidence and Warranted Hope:** Drawn into focus by leaders (Heb 13:7), family (Psalm 86:16), awareness of need (Ps 86, 1, 6), fact of no one else (6), distress (6), people challenges (14). Drawn up to steadfast love through Spirit's teaching (11), servant-trust (2, 3), God's past deeds (13, 17), desire for signs & vindication (16), and remembrance of the enduring character of God.

### Painting our Reality: Bit of Rocket Science and a Bit about Life

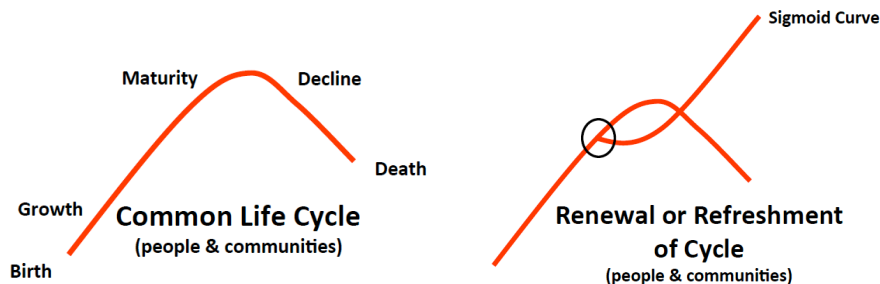


**Pulse of Life: "If no ups and downs then there is no life"**

**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

**Our Responses:** Resistance/Reluctance/Resilience/Persistence

## The Lifecycles/Seasons for Persons and Communities



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

### Praying with Our Vision to Flourish: Infinity sign God's Steadfast Love and His Deep Desire for Us

*Say you love me,  
Tell me that you love me,  
Say that I am the one that you'll come running to,  
To hold you through the rain.  
Say you love me and there is no one else above me.  
Open up your heart to me, I'll always be – all you'll ever need.  
Say you love me! [Naturally 7]*

### Paradox of the Christian from: Incredible Christian – A.W. Tozer (Chapter 1)

The Christian believes that in Christ he has died, yet he is more alive than before and he fully expects to live forever. He walks on earth while seated in heaven and though born on earth He finds that after his conversion he is not at home here . . . That he may be safe he puts himself in jeopardy; he loses his life to save it and is in danger of losing it if he attempts to preserve it. He goes down to get up. If he refuses to go down he is already down, but when he starts down he is on his way up.

He is strongest when he is weakest and weakest when he is strong. Though poor he has the power to make others rich, but when he becomes rich his ability to enrich others vanishes. He has most after he has given most away and has least when he possesses most. He may be and often is highest when he feels lowest and most sinless when he is most conscious of sin. He is wisest when he knows that he knows not and knows least when he has acquired the greatest amount of knowledge. He sometimes does most by doing nothing and goes furthest when standing still. In heaviness he manages to rejoice and keeps his heart glad even in sorrow.

The paradoxical character of the Christian is revealed constantly. For instance, he believes that he is saved now, nevertheless he expects to be saved later . . . He fears God but is not afraid of Him. In God's presence he feels overwhelmed and undone, yet there is nowhere he would rather be than in that presence . . . He feels that he is in his own right altogether less than nothing, yet he believes without question that he is the apple of God's eye and that for him the Eternal Son became flesh and died on the cross of shame . . . He cheerfully expects before long to enter that bright world above, but he is in no hurry to leave this world . . . Incredible Christian!

## Moose Jaw Alliance Church