

Isaiah 12

God has gone before us, and he will be there waiting for us when we cross the finish line. Genesis 1 describes how the Spirit was literally hovering over the waters, like a mother looking into a crib. Everything that we need falls under God's promises to mankind. Jesus is the embodiment of those promises. What we do need is more than a road map. We need a guide to accompany us from beginning to end. God is so faithful.

Isaiah is partially about how God gets men to a place spiritually where they can live according to what they were made for. That pathway to real life is called redemption. It begins with a frank diagnosis of men's natural-depraved state. The Bible is called a *sword*, because it exposes our inner failures. It is not complimentary to our natural state. It requires change and a reversal of course. Sometimes conflict resolution can breed an even deeper relationship. We all have an attraction to gravitate towards selfish living. We need continual correction and direction found only in the scriptures. The Bible also gives us a view of that *ideal life* in harmony with God and man.

We are all living testimonies of our life choices. God must repeatedly teach us that we are incapable of having much of a life without him. One problem is that we do not see our errors so clearly. Do we smell the coffee when God confronts us, or do we double down in pride? He allows us the freedom to discover this on our own.

In this chapter, we have a person musing over how many things have blessed him as he draws closer to God. We live in what is called *a redemption relationship*; which is different than what the angels have. God went well beyond what is right and wrong to save us. He went way out of bounds and *off of the game board* to save us. As far as I know, the angels may only have a 1-strike rule...who knows?

It is important to live more deliberately seeking more *oneness with God* always produces dividends. That is called practicing his presence.

Read Isaiah 12

Isaiah records his praises to God. Isaiah has seen that Jehovah is salvation. In fact, that is exactly what the name *Jesus* means. To believe in Jehovah's salvation is supposed to be the same as believing in Jesus. The opposite would be to distrust

God and be afraid to be around him. There is no need to accuse a guilty conscience. Isaiah has been rescued. That is dramatic and often has an impact beyond words. There have been studies on the effects of being rescued.

The Rat That Refused to Drown: The Chilling Experiment That Proved the Power of Hope

In the 1950s, a Harvard scientist conducted a series of shocking experiments on rats. What he found revealed something extraordinary about resilience, not just in animals, but in us. Dr. Curt Richter, a Harvard biologist, placed domestic rats in glass jars filled with water. The containers were deep enough that the rats couldn't touch the bottom or escape.

The rats began to swim. Within **15 minutes**, most of them gave up. They stopped paddling... and drowned. It wasn't exhaustion. Physiologically, the rats had enough energy to swim much longer. But something else inside them simply shut down. Richter wondered what would happen if, just before a rat gave up, he lifted it out, dried it off, let it rest, and then put it back in?

The Second Chance That Changed Everything

He tried it. Just before the rats were about to give up, he rescued them. He held them gently for a short time, allowed them to recover, and then placed them back into the water. They had experienced being saved once, so they kept swimming, believing rescue might come again. In short: **they had hope**. Some rescued rats swam for 60 hours! It is healthy to see God's hand in our deliverances.



It is interesting how people running from God characterize him completely differently than people moving towards God. We all have what is called a *confirmation bias*, meaning that we are seeking agreement with our choices. It makes us feel better about ourselves. People who ignore the mounting contrary evidence are more likely to mischaracterize God as they study him in their rearview mirror. People moving towards God find new discoveries and new meaning. The Holy Spirit send us confirmations when we are going in the right direction. We gain new strength. We can tell when we are acting as one with God.

'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I carried you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. ⁵ Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; ⁶ and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."
(Exodus 19)

We can study the bible and theology all day long, but hard life circumstances make it all more real. We will probably not reach the highest joy unless we have been delivered. How would we know that God is our strength or refuge, unless we had no strength or escape?