

PRAYING PSALM 3

"I cried to the Lord with my voice. He heard me from His holy hill... I lay down and slept. I awoke for the Lord sustained me... I will not be afraid..." (Psalm 3:4-6).

David wrote this psalm when the hearts of the men of Israel turned to Absalom. David was betrayed by his own son, his best friend, and others sought his demise. After David's sin with Bathsheba, he was chastened by the Lord. God forgave David, but many of his subjects didn't. They fled like rats from a sinking ship. Many gave up on him and wanted Absalom as their king. The rejection was overwhelming for David. While he fled for his life, his enemies declared, "There is no hope for him in God." David had to choose between the criticism of his enemies or the counsel of God. In this psalm David cried to the Lord. Then he went to sleep trusting the Lord. He chose not to be overwhelmed by his fear. Absalom had the crowd. David had the Lord! With God victory must be proclaimed and before it is accepted, not vice versa. Sometimes we can do no more than pray with all our reservations and doubts. "Casting our care on Him" is an act of faith. When we do that, we receive victory. What God decides is His will, and His will is always good. When resign to His will, we can lay down and sleep. When we awaken to a new day, things may not seem so foreboding. Listen to this theology: "Now I lay me down to sleep. I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take."