

Warren Wiersbe

Faith is living without scheming.

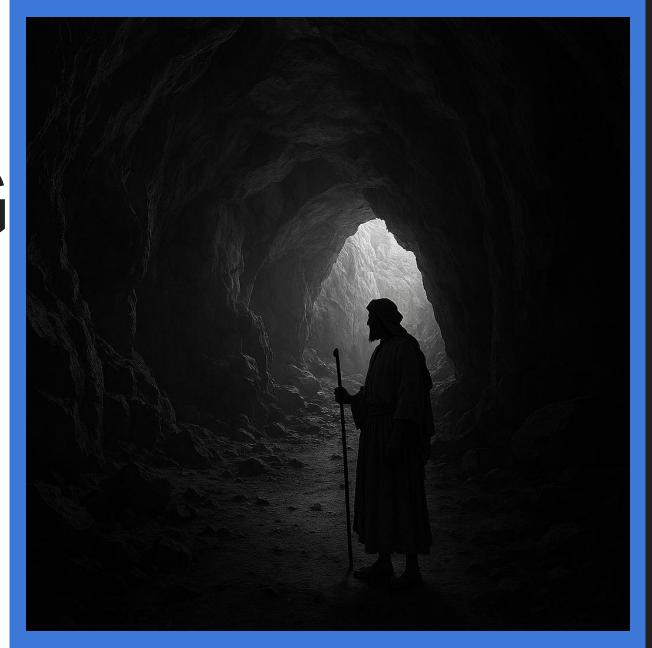
So that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:7



And I will put this third into the fire, and refine them as one refines silver, and test them as gold is tested. They will call upon my name, and I will answer them. I will say, 'They are my people'; and they will say, 'The LORD is my God.'" Zechariah 13:9

Behold, I have refined you, but not as silver; I have tried you in the furnace of affliction. Isaiah 48:10

FROM KING TO CAVE DWELLER



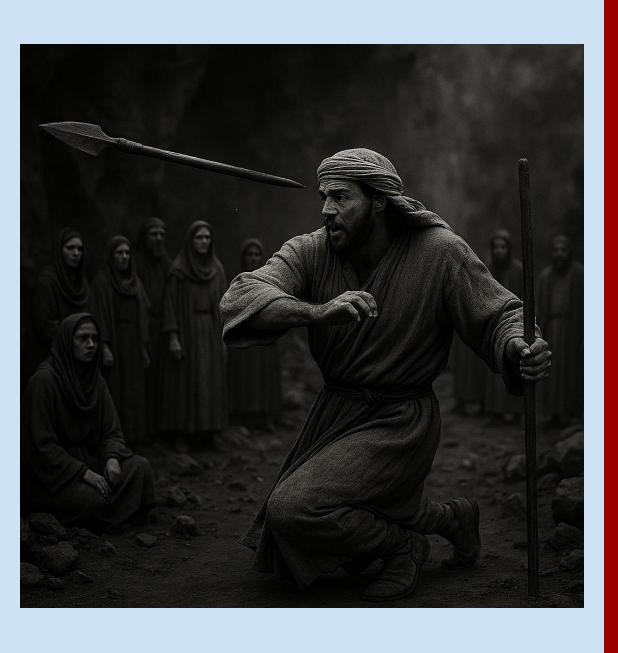


When the men arrived after David returned from striking down the Philistine, the women from all the cities of Israel came out singing and dancing to meet King Saul. They were happy as they played their tambourines and three-stringed instruments. The women who were playing the music sang,

"Saul has struck down his thousands,

but David his tens of thousands!"

This made Saul very angry. The statement displeased him and he thought, "They have attributed to David tens of thousands, but to me they have attributed only thousands. What does he lack, except the kingdom?" So Saul was keeping an eye on David from that day onward



- 1. Not allowed to return Home
 - 2. Life Threatened
- 3. Set-Up for Failure & Death
 - 4. Assasination Ordered
- 5. At War with the Philistines
 - 6. Betrayed by Michal
 - 7. Separated from His Best Friend and Mentor
 - 8. Forced to Flee
 - 9. Dwelt in Caves
 - 10. Wandered for 10 Years
 - 11. Left Without Food
- 12. At the Mercy of His Enemies



David thought about what they said and was very afraid of King Achish of Gath. He altered his behavior in their presence. Since he was in their power, he pretended to be insane, making marks on the doors of the gate and letting his saliva run down his beard.

Achish said to his servants, "Look at this madman! Why did you bring him to me? Do I have a shortage of fools so that you have brought me this man to display his insanity in front of me? Should this man enter my house?"

FROM FIGHT AND FLIGHT TO FAITH IN GOD



Now David achieved success in all he did, for the Lord was with him. 1 Samuel 18:14



Then David went from there to Mizpah in Moab, where he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and mother stay with you until I know what God is going to do for me." 1 Samuel 22:2



Deliver me from my enemies, my God.

Protect me from those who attack me.

Deliver me from evildoers.
Rescue me from violent men.[h]
For look, they wait to ambush me;
powerful men stalk me,
but not because I have rebelled or
sinned, O Lord.

Though I have done nothing wrong, they are anxious to attack.

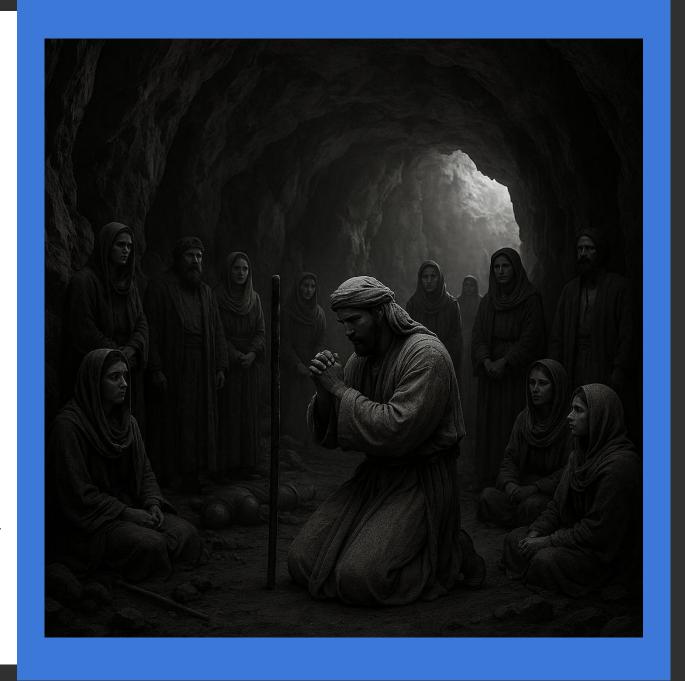
Spring into action and help me.

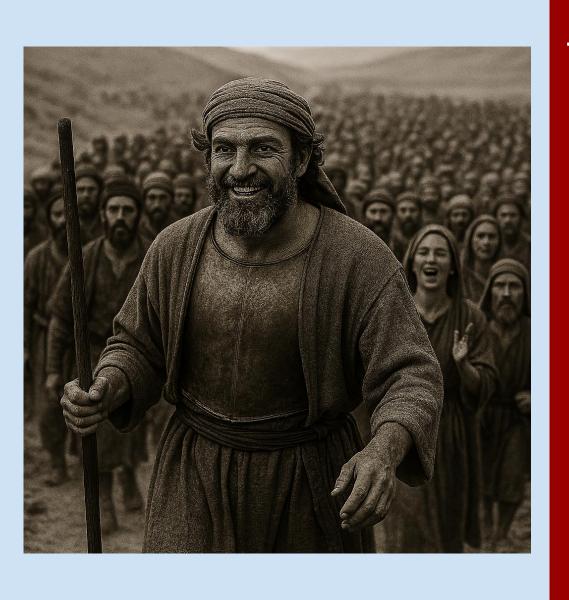
Take notice of me.

Psalm 59:1-4



FROM LOWLY SHEPHERD TO KING OF THE LOWLY





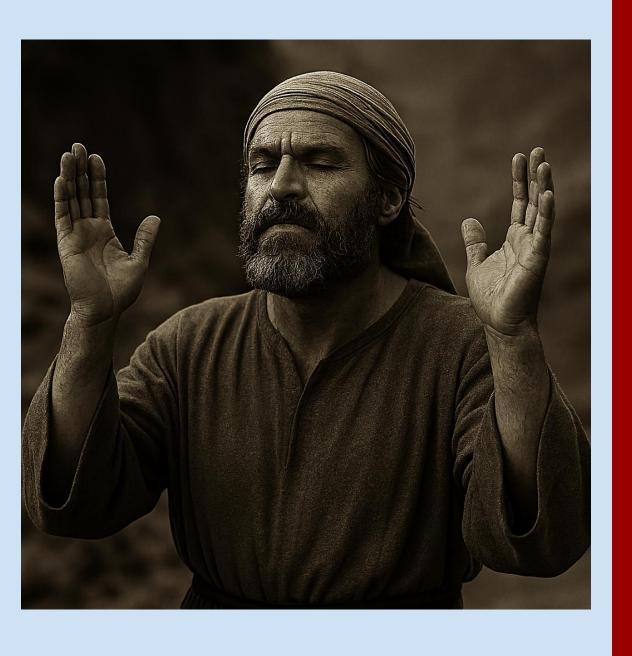
So David left there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and the rest of his father's family learned about it, they went down there to him. 2 All those who were in trouble or owed someone money or were discontented gathered around him, and he became their leader. He had about 400 men with him.

1 Samuel 22:1



Today your own eyes see how the LORD delivered you—this very day—into my hands in the cave. Some told me to kill you, but I had pity on you and said, 'I will not extend my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD's chosen one.' . . . I am not planning evil or rebellion. Even though I have not sinned against you, you are waiting in ambush to take my life. May the LORD judge between the two of us, and may the LORD vindicate me over you, but my hand will not be against you. It's like the old proverb says: 'From evil people evil proceeds.' But my hand will not be against you. Who has the king of Israel come out after? Who is it that you are pursuing? A dead dog? A single flea? May the LORD be our judge and arbiter. May he see and arbitrate my case and deliver me from your hands."

1 Samuel 24:10-15



As for me, I will sing about your strength;
I will praise your loyal love in the morning.

For you are my refuge and my place of shelter when I face trouble. You are my source of strength. I will sing praises to you. For God is my refuge, the God who loves me. Psalm 59:16-17





Bradley Gray

God leveraged suffering to heal suffering. Grace invites us to stare into the face of the ultimate sufferer who is with you through it all.



No weapon forged to be used against you will succeed; you will refute everyone who tries to accuse you. This is what the Lord will do for his servants-I will vindicate them," says the Lord. Isaiah 54:17