

Good morning! Many years ago, I heard Joseph Garlington, Senior Pastor of Covenant Church of Pittsburgh, speak about a problem he had with a relationship with one of his parishioners. He had tried a number of things to resolve it, but the problem just seemed to fester. One day, he was complaining to God over it in prayer and he said, "God, I know you could fix this thing in a minute! Why don't you do it?" He said that God responded, "Yes I could, but if I did, you wouldn't be talking with me that much!" Have you ever discovered that what God was doing in your life was not what you thought He was doing? I have occasionally discovered that the problem I was trying to solve was not the problem I actually had! This morning, let's take a look at how this principle operates in our lives:

Sing the praises of the Lord, you his faithful people; praise his holy name. For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning. When I felt secure, I said, "I will never be shaken." Lord, when you favored me, you made my royal mountain stand firm; but when you hid your face, I was dismayed. To you, Lord, I called; to the Lord I cried for mercy: "What is gained if I am silenced, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it proclaim your faithfulness? Hear, Lord, and be merciful to me; Lord, be my help." You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. Lord my God, I will praise you forever. **Psa. 30:4-12**

In this passage, we see a process taking place. The writer begins with praise to God for the cyclical way He operates in his life. Perhaps you can identify with it: He says, "*For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.*" Do you see it? When God is dealing with us, there seem to be cycles of pain and relief. The writer then offers an example that most of us can identify with. Things were going great: "*When I felt secure, I said, 'I will never be shaken.' Lord, when you favored me, you made my royal mountain stand firm; but when you hid your face, I was dismayed. To you, Lord, I called; to the Lord I cried for mercy.*" Have you ever experienced this? We get self-satisfied and self-sufficient and then suddenly the rug gets pulled out from under us! The translation here is a little unfortunate because the word translated as *dismayed* here is the Greek word *bahal* which more accurately translates as *terrified*. These are two very different concepts; I'm *dismayed* when God isn't doing what I want Him to do but I'm *terrified* if I think He might not be there at all! But the writer doesn't leave us in our desperation. He cries out to the Lord, who acts on his behalf and, through this

process, has taken away his self-sufficiency. “*You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. Lord my God, I will praise you forever.*” So it is with us. God takes us through various episodes to remove our self-sufficiency. Perhaps you find yourself in such an episode right now. Let me encourage you to hang in there and see it through. It may be weeping time now...but rejoicing time is coming!