

*In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness. Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me. For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me. (Psalm 31:1-3)*

“A profession of faith” is a phrase that has come into popular use as a description of one being converted to Christianity. In this connection such a profession becomes regarded as a one-time experience. This belies Biblical usage. The true believer professes, proclaims, declares his faith in Christ often. It is the basis of his expectation that his petitions will be received.

God is declared to be the believer’s “rock and fortress,” where he hides and repulses all enemy attacks. This presupposes anticipated enemy assaults. We can be absolutely certain that such assaults will come. He who is attacked without an adequate fortress will surely perish. Blessed is the person whose house of defence is the Lord.

Now we can note the psalmist’s logic of his hope. He, by faith, has declared God to be his hope, He in Whom he puts his trust. Noting that God is his rock and fortress, he asks Him to be such at this particular moment of distress and need. What God is to us in a general sense, He will be in a particular way at the moment of need. If he is our Provider, we can look to Him for this meal. If He is our Peace, we can trust Him to still our troubled soul at this moment. If He is our Wisdom, we can trust Him to guide us in this particular matter. If He is our Shield, we can be sure He will deflect the missile now headed our way.

God is righteous. His Name is tied in with His Justice. He, therefore, will not desert a trusting soul. They who do truly put their trust in Him will never have occasion to be ashamed that they did.

-C.M.