

# Be Still Before God

Հանդարտ Կեցիր Աստուծոյ Առջեւ

## Psalm 37:1-11

We arrived to the last Sunday of the year. **Amen**

“Yes, **Amen**, indeed, let it be, so be it. I agree, I affirm, it is done and I love it. I am with you, Lord.”

Another year of the God’s promises comes to an end. Paul says it best:

**For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.** (2 Corinthians 1:20 ESV)

**Amen.**

Another year passed with His promises embracing us.

**Amen.**

Some can be rejoicing with His promises. Some are disappointed that His promises were not delivered to them as they wanted.

I don’t know how you feel this morning, but during the holidays, I saw again the movie called “**Home Alone.**” Kevin, the youngest child, was left behind and forgotten as his family went on vacation. The kid, who thought no one in the family cared for him, enjoys them being gone. Watch with me the clip:

He says: “**I made my family disappear.**”

Do you feel that way this morning? Do you want some people to disappear from your life? Do you want some things to disappear from your life?

Let me ask you also those questions:

Do feel God left you alone? Do you think His promises are not for you? Do you find too many wicked people doing better than you financially, socially or in any way?

You are not alone. King David wrote this Psalm thousands of years ago and feeling the same way.

**Fret not yourself because of evildoers; be not envious of wrongdoers! For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.**

**Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.**

**Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday.**

**Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! (Psalm 37:1-7 ESV)**

## **1. Do Not Fret**

The phrase “do not fret” (to not be hot, furious, burn, become angry, be kindled) appears three times in this psalm. We get angry when we see unjust things happen. When we see wicked people killing, stealing, bullying, making war, causing the refugee crisis...you name it... “We must not let the seeming prosperity of the ‘wicked’ and ‘those who do wrong’ undermine our trust in the just character and sovereign power of Yahweh.”<sup>1</sup>

We get drained when we are angry. This morning I will ask you to look back and see if there is **any anger from the past year** that you are carrying with you to the New Year. **Maybe you are not grateful** at all for anything. Maybe you are a **complainer about anything**. Maybe you are **angry that God delayed His promises** to you. You know your life.

-Illustration: These days we are reading about the birth of Jesus. Let me ask you about **Joseph and Mary**. They are engaged, and Mary is pregnant. These days this to find a person pregnant out of marriage is not big news. But back then, even today in the Middle East, news like this will make Joseph furious, angry and anxious. First, he hears the news of his fiancé's pregnancy, tough to swallow; then he hears from the Angel of the Lord; quite amazing and frightening. Then for tax reasons he needs to take his pregnant fiancé and go out of Nazareth. Mary is pregnant, she is ready to deliver; they are poor; they find themselves in Bethlehem, no place to stay... Do you see the anxiety level going up? Then God tells him he needs to go to Egypt, because there is a crazy king ready to kill babies. Do you see how tough his life was?

God's promises? Where are those promises?

Let me return to our psalm. David writes, "Do not fret." Those who think they are successful people will wither and pass away:

**For they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb.**

The image that people are like grass and will wither has often been used in the Bible. It is a good image to remind us how fragile life is.

Instead...

## **2. Trust in the Lord and do good**

Following the negative verse, David directs the hearers to three positive imperatives: **trust , dwell, and delight**

**Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD. (v.3,4)**

Do you see? Anger turns into ***passionate commitment***.

Going back to "Home Alone", Kevin thought that all people who made him mad disappeared, which meant, life would be much easier. I don't think so; his problems had just started...

God is leading David to write and compose a psalm where the psalmist is learning despite all the anger and disappointments **to trust, dwell and delight** in God.

**Real faith always includes obedience** and obedience includes doing the "good" things God commands. That is why trusting God and doing good cannot be separated.

-Illustration: I am looking back at the year 2017. My family went through a major change. We were always together as one family. It was time to change my field of ministry. It was a costly change, my wife left behind her so much loved piano students, my daughter and son had to leave their secure home; each had to find their new place to stay. Sevan and I came to Fresno. We came to a new family, called Pilgrim Armenian Cong Church. We left behind a secure job and moved to an unknown place. I trusted God, and I dwelled in Him and He is my delight.

**Therefore:**

### **3. Commit your ways**

**Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and He will act.**

Christmas celebration was last Sunday. When I look back at last Sunday's service with the kids, the choir, the orchestra, you as a congregation, my new family, I am delighted in God. I was very happy to see 255 people in the church morning service and 115 in the evening service. The church was full. I was also sad because I would love to minister to my flock every Sunday like this. I would love to see them more often. I would love to share with them the gospel of our Lord.

**But what God is saying to us?**

**Commit your ways to the Lord, and TRUST Him... he will act...**

**There is no alternative for a person to mature in faith.**

**Commit your ways to the Lord, trust him...(v5)**

Not every Sunday is "Christmas"; God will act, it is a promise. When?

When will He act?

#### **4. Be Still....**

**Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for Him.**

Dallas Willard says: **“You must ruthlessly eliminate hurry from your life, for hurry is the great enemy of spiritual life in our world today.”**

**Be still...**

I searched the meaning in Hebrew:

*Damam, which means: to be silent, be still, wait, be dumb, grow dumb.*

A tough thing to do. To be silent does not mean you will do nothing. This means we will continue worshiping him, continue knowing God in as Abba, daddy, *hayrig*; we will pray; we will sing; we will serve; we will cook; we will dance; we will shout in joy; we will walk and exercise; we will plan the year; we will go to a retreat; we will prune the vineyards; and on and on... in all these areas we will learn to be silent to HEAR His VOICE.

God works in mysterious ways. His ways are not similar to my ways. So let us enter 2018; year of surprises, year of full of God’s promises.

**-Do Not Fret.**

**-Trust in the Lord, and do good.**

**-Commit your ways.**

**-Be Still....**

I will end the year with those words. (I read it somewhere)

**TOWARDS THE UNKNOWN FUTURE IN THE HANDS OF THE ALL-KNOWING GOD**

**I will say AMEN. Let it be**

1 Wilson, Gearld, The NIV Application Commentary, p 603