

The Word of God Keeps Us Focused

Introduction

In the world we live in, there are many dangers and distractions that can cause the Christian to faint or even fail, but we learn in this lesson that the fire of persecution doesn't destroy the Christian but it makes him more focused.

81. My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word.

- The sinful condition of this **world** is enough to make the Christian faint for the salvation (return) of the Lord.
- When it seems that the Lord has hidden His face during our crisis, we need to stay by Him and **wait** on Him.
- In times of darkness, one of the most important parts of the Christian's armor is **Hope!**

82. Mine eyes fail for thy word, saying, When wilt thou comfort me?

- The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, but Christians are unwilling to **wait** for it. - Bridges
- Impatience in the Christian will result in doing **little** for the Lord .
- Even while our eyes fail waiting for the comfort of the Lord, **peace** can be found in submission and joyful expectation. - Bridges

83. For I am become like a bottle in the smoke; yet do I not forget thy statutes.

- Bottle skins were used for drinking, and at the end of the day they were **emptied** and hung up in the tent.
- When the tent filled with smoke the bottle skins became black, and in the heat they became **dried** out, wrinkled and worn.
- Just like the bottle in the smoke, God empties His people by removing carnal desires and He allows the Christian to **feel** the fire of tribulation so that in the end He can fill them with spiritual things.

84. How many are the days of thy servant? when wilt thou execute judgment on them that persecute me?

- To complain about God is dishonorable, to complain to God is the privilege of being a **Christian**.
- When Christians are under persecution, we should never forget that our **hiding**-place is in God.

85. The proud have digged pits for me, which are not after thy law.

- Pits are symbolic of the **traps** the wicked make against the godly.
- When people do evil against you, don't take vengeance into your own hands, instead, get **close** to God, share your problems with Him, and let Him handle the situation.

86. All thy commandments are faithful: they persecute me wrongfully; help thou me.

- God's commands are a dependable **guide** to know what is right and what is wrong.
- By obeying commandments of God, the writer is doing what is **right**, yet he is still persecuted.

87. They had almost consumed me upon earth; but I forsook not thy precepts.

- The lions are **chained**: they can rage no further than our God permits. - Spurgeon
- The lives of good Christians are full of narrow **escapes**. - Plumer

88. Quicken me after thy lovingkindness; so shall I keep the testimony of thy mouth.

- The source of living the Christian life is in Christ, but the power of the **flesh** hinders every motion.
- We need continual quickening to **maintain** our dedication in living for the Lord.

Though we think the time long ere the promised salvation and comfort come, yet we must still keep our eye upon that salvation, and resolve to take up with nothing short of it.

M. Henry