

ONE MINUTE MESSAGE

OUTLASTING THE BLUES (2 Samuel 23:5)

During a dark period of Abraham Lincoln's life, he wrote, *"I am now the most miserable man living. If what I feel were equally distributed to the whole human family, there would not be one cheerful face on earth. Whether I shall ever be better I cannot tell; I awfully forebode I shall not."*

It's hard to believe these words were written by one of our nation's greatest leaders. And it's hard to believe that years later this same despairing man was able to say: *"The year that is drawing toward a close has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. These bounties are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come."*

After his early struggles with failure, the final years of Lincoln's life, though not free from struggle, were marked by happiness, achievement, and success. It was because of this capacity to outlast the blues that Lincoln experienced — in this life — the enormity of God's blessing.

The same could be said for King David. As you read through the Psalms, you get a glimpse of his struggles and heartaches. (Psalm 10, 38, 102 are among many examples.) And though his life was not without tragedy, David ended his days enjoying the benefits of God's blessing.

In a phrase, he outlasted the blues. His final words were: *Is not my house right with God? Has he not made with me an everlasting covenant, arranged and secured in every part? Will he not bring to fruition my salvation and grant me my every desire?* (2 Samuel 23:5)

It's almost as if our reward for tenacity is that problems eventually give up and leave us alone. Today, you may be facing the anguish of Lincoln or King David, but there's more to your story than what you are experiencing today. As He did with David, God will bring to fruition your salvation, full and complete. And he will grant your heart's desires.

This gives us a reason to keep on...to outlast the blues. • Steve May

Project Brasil is a Christian ministry located in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, devoted to bringing the gospel of Christ to poor communities. We offer English courses, computer classes, job training, children's activities, medical care and spiritual help.

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