

I Love You, O Lord, My Strength
Pastor David Balla
Peace, Plainfield

I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. Psalm 18:1-3 (ESV)

David begins this psalm with a declaration that is both personal and powerful: “I love you, O Lord, my strength.” This is heartfelt devotion. David knows God not just as the Creator of the world, but as the One who has carried him through battles, delivered him from enemies, and sustained him in weakness. His love flows from lived experience of God’s saving power.

What follows is a cascade of metaphors that paint a vivid picture of who God is for His people. “The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer.” A rock is solid, unshakable, a foundation that cannot be moved. A fortress is a place of defense and safety when enemies attack. A deliverer is one who rescues from danger and brings to freedom. Each word shows God not as distant, but as active and present in David’s life.

David continues: “my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.” Each phrase deepens the picture. A refuge is where the pursued find safety. A shield is protection against the enemy’s arrows. The “horn of salvation” is a symbol of strength and victory, like the horn of a powerful animal. A stronghold is a secure place, impossible for enemies to overrun.

Taken together, these images give us a full sense of God’s saving power: stable like a rock, protective like a fortress, personal like a shield, triumphant like a horn lifted in victory. David is overwhelmed with the truth that in every situation, God is his defender, rescuer, and strength.

Then David sums it up simply: “I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.” Prayer and praise go hand in hand. David calls upon God in trust, and God responds with salvation. The outcome is certain—not because of David’s strength, but because of who God is.

For us, these words are not only David’s testimony but our own. In Christ, God has revealed His saving power most clearly. Jesus is the Rock rejected by men but chosen by God, the fortress in whom we are safe, the Deliverer who rescues us from sin and death. He is our Shield against the accusations of the devil, the Horn of our salvation lifted high on the cross, the Stronghold where we are kept secure forever.

When life shakes us, when enemies surround, when our own strength fails, we can join David’s confession: “I love you, O Lord, my strength.” To call on Him is to be saved, because He alone is worthy to be praised.