Operation 180

Lesson 2.4

"Hope in the Psalms."

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Step 2 -- We came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

"You faithfully answer our prayers with awesome deeds, O God our savior. You are the hope of everyone on earth, even those who sail on distant seas." (Psalm 65:5, NLT)

"And so, Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in you ... Hear my prayer, O Lord! Listen to my cries for help! Don't ignore my tears." (Psalm 39:7, 12, NLT)

The Psalms were considered prophetic writings in ancient Israel because they document what God has done. The prophetic title comes from the Israelites' belief that what God has done before, He will do again.

The Psalms pose a most significant question: Where is God during hard times? If I can't see Him, and I am not experiencing Him, is He really there? The Psalms continue to be so relevant to today because these very questions continue to be asked every day, and maybe even in your recovery.

Let's look at contrasting examples from the Psalms in this lesson. In this first example, everything seems to be going OK for King David. He experiences God as answering him through "awe-inspiring works." But then he is hoping against hope, waiting for God to act. Why? Because he is depending on God's covenant love. What God has done before, He will do again.

Question #1: Has God ever faithfully answered a prayer of yours? Are you waiting for him to act again in your life as he has before?

Question #2: Have you ever felt like King David, wondering why God has ignored your tears? Do you have hope that God will listen to your cries again and act in your life?

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