

Date: 9 August 2020  
Speaker: Pr James Tan  
Topic: Never Be in Despair!  
Scripture text: 1 Samuel 27:1-12

1. Despair is a strong word to mean hopelessness and to be in great desperation. David, a man after God's own heart, failed to trust in the Lord when he fell into despair.

2. Despair arises from our own sinful hearts. David had been running away from king Saul and God, by His mercies, delivered David from Saul's attacks. However, David's fear within himself caused him to despair and declared that he will surely die by the hands of Saul. He completely forgot that God is sovereign over life and death. Let us pray earnestly and turn our eyes upon the Lord, not upon ourselves or the circumstances. The Holy Spirit indwelling in us is our Comforter and helps us to endure trying circumstances.

3. Despair caused David to flee without first seeking the Lord's direction. David fled to the enemies' land in hope that Saul would give up the pursuit. In moments of desperation, we must continue to act according to God's Word and will. Christians must not sin even in moments of desperation. Christians should rather patiently wait upon the Lord in trials and pray for God's strength to walk in righteousness.

4. Despair will soon lead to compromise. In moments of desperation, David sought the favour of the king of the Philistines, rather than God's favour. He lied to gain the king's loyalty. David's compromise lasted for more than a year and it destroyed his Christian testimony. When one sins and does not repent, it will surely lead to a downward spiral of sin. In his compromise, the Lord was not glorified and Jehovah's protection over His children was not testified.

5. The only cure to despair is to turn to Christ who is our hope and comfort.