

**May 21, 2022**

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

**Ps. 18:1-2 *I love You, LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. (NIV)***

As we look at this declaration from the heart of David, we see that it begins with David's desire to call out to the LORD with a loving heart towards Him. And this is a choice of David as well as a choice from every person. We can choose to love the LORD or we can choose not to.

Just as Joshua had earlier challenged the people of Israel in **Joshua 24:15 *But is serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD. (NIV)*** Now the love we can give is certainly a choice we have. But we must remember that no matter how we love Him, the LORD will always love us. He will never stop.

Then David mentions a characteristic of God twice. He proclaims that the LORD is my rock. This is a picture of a provision from the LORD. This word for rock depicted a rock that offered up help, i.e. a firm place to stand and fight, a place of protection in its crevasses and cracks, and a place that offered shade which was always helpful in the desert heat that they faced. Clearly, David knew that without the help of his rock, fortress, shield and horn of his salvation, he had no hope to stand against the onslaught of the enemies he faced. But, with the LORD, he had complete confidence that he would be protected and taken care of.

One of the greatest benefits of living in the real and abundant life is knowing the One Who is always watching over you and pouring out His blessings and protection for you. He really does love you. He really will protect you. He always will.

**Dear LORD, I love You. You are everything. You are my protector and my provider. I put my hope in You and You alone. Help me to remember this today and always turn my face towards You. In Jesus Name, Amen**