

I. Review

The last time we were together, we closed out Psalms 4:4-8, and we looked at five key areas that are vital to our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. As we go through Psalms, I am trying to keep it cohesive so that you can follow it through one week to the next which is why I bridge back and forth. I want it to be a complete flowing system as we come through it.

Five Key Areas Vital to Our Relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ

1. *Stand in awe, and sin not: (Psalms 4:4)*—**the supernatural life of the believer.** This is all the miracles of God in our lives which are unexplainable. We talked about how in Malachi 3 that God has a book of remembrance that He writes things in for the people that are close to Him and love Him. And I said that every one of us should have a book of remembrance of the things that God has done in our lives. **One of the things the devil or the world will try to do is to get you to forget all those things God has done for you.** We talked about the miracle of the new birth, and truly what a miracle that is—being born again—going from darkness to light; from the world to Christianity which God has provided for us. And that's where most of God's people never move past. **Yes, there is the miracle of the new birth, but there is also the miracle of our lives after salvation—the miracles that God does which will change not only your life but the people's lives that you're associated with.**
2. *Offer the sacrifices of righteousness (Psalm 4:5)*—We learned **what it really takes to be a living sacrifice** like Romans 12 says. We found out what it cost Christ for our salvation, and what it will cost us to give it to others—the price that we'll have to pay; the sacrifice that we'll have to make. As Luke 14:28 says, we need to count the cost for us to be that sacrifice.
3. *Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us (Psalms 4:6)*—Lifting up the light of thy countenance in the face of those against us. The question was asked, *who will shew us [any] good?* And the answer is that God will—through the light of His word—**overcoming the darkness of this world through the promises of God.**
4. *Thou has put gladness in my heart (Psalms 4:7)*—What He gives versus the things of this world which can never give us the gladness we need. **Nothing on this earth will replace the satisfaction of a life of serving God.** That's one of the great miracles that comes after the miracle of the new birth—actually being able to see, in time, how the plan of God begins to unfold in your own life and play out in every detail—watching God do the little impossible things, orchestrating the circumstances, bringing the people into your life, and God at every turn having His hand on your life. Then you see it in your children as you begin to train them up. In time, you'll see it in your grandkids. And what you have then is the family ministering teams together.

Fundamentally, **the ministry should be helping people** to accomplish this in their life through the five people groups that any church is made up of and what is the church's job, as the pastor looks at each one of them and determines what each group needs.

The Five People Groups in Churches

- i. The Young Teens/Young Singles—Men and women neither an adult nor a kid. The job of a church is to try to get them to make good choices in life. They've got their whole lives ahead of them, and we know it only takes one bad choice to stop God working in their life and put them into a tailspin. It's helping them make good choices in their life and in the decisions they have to make.
- ii. The Young Couples—The job for us as a church is to build your family Biblically giving you everything you need for your children and developing them.
- iii. Older Parents/Older Singles—Establishing yourself. There's a point in our lives, which we call a mid-life crisis, which simply means one of two things. First, you're unsaved and you've hit 40 or 50 and the reality is life is not what you thought it was. You start to see the downside of things in your life, and you don't know what to do with it. Automatically you think, I'll buy a corvette or get me a younger girl, and you try to go back and capture those days again. There's no re-capturing those days; you're where you're at because you are unsaved, lost, you've put off the Lord Jesus Christ, and you have grieved the Holy Spirit of God—and that's the price you're paying now for it.

Then you have the child of God who is truly saved and on their way to heaven, but they do nothing for God. They've never gotten into a church, they've never been in ministry, their family and kids are a disaster, they didn't have time for church yet would talk about what a great Christian they are. Now they hit 40, 50, or 60 and are facing the Judgment Seat of Christ with nothing in their hand to bring. They too have grieved the Holy Spirit of God, not the same way as an unsaved person has, but this is why they have the problems that they have.

And we have many in our church who are in this people group, and they have God in their lives. You look at their lives, what they're doing, and what God is doing with them—and it makes a difference.

- iv. Little Children in the Elementary Division—We begin with you as a parent to build in their lives the things that they need.
- v. Seniors—What can the church do for you? —the same thing you did in the physical world before you retired—an IRA or 401K that you could bank on so that you could have a comfortable life when you retired. This church will help you build a spiritual 401K giving you the things you need to live through the word of God and its principles; enjoying everything

that God has for you. And that doesn't mean that your life is over or that you can't serve God; it just means that now you can help the younger ones. You can take these young people and make a difference in their lives because you have a full spiritual bank account. That's an incredible thing.

5. *I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety (Psalms 4:8)*—the **real peace and safety that can only come from the word of God**. *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding*; what the world sees in our lives but they cannot understand—and they want what you have. It's one of the greatest assets today to draw men and women to Christ. The worse the world gets, the darker it becomes, the more chaotic and insane, the more people are going to look for sane people—and that should be us.

Out of these five, we have seen three great concepts. **We've seen the blessings which God has for us. Through those blessings God will sustain us through life, and from that we get the peace which passeth all understanding by us keeping our minds stayed on Him.** I gave you the two great verses for every child of God—Philippians 4:7 (*the peace of God, which passeth all understanding*) and Isaiah 26:3 (*Thou wilt keep [him] in perfect peace*) all through the greatest Book the world has ever seen—a King James 1611 Authorized Version—the complete word of God.

II. The Five Old Testament Wisdom Books

When we started the book of Psalms, I showed you how these five wisdom books will show us the five key characteristics of God and Christ.

1. **Job** will show you the price Christ paid on the cross and the sufferings of Christ.
2. **Proverbs** will show you God's opinion on everything, what God looks at, and how he looks at it; the mind of God.
3. **Song of Solomon** shows you how to build your own relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and really find out how He looks at you and how you should look at Him; the mind of Christ.
4. **Ecclesiastes** shows you the mind of the Holy Spirit, what He's doing, the circuit that He operates by, how He infiltrates down through time and history, and all the things man comes up with to get around the Holy Spirit of God.
5. **Psalms** will pull all the other books together by showing you the heart of God. It shows where God's heartbeat really is, and how getting God's heartbeat will be the key to everything in our Christian life. Psalms 119 is 176 verses which will be the key to the book of Psalms.

And there will be no real understanding of God or Christ in our lives without these five books working together in our lives to show you and define for you what Christianity should really be.

III. Psalms 5:1-3

Today we're going to start chapter five, and again, we're just going to take a couple of verses at a time because there's so much in here. I want to build them in a consistent way.

Psalms 5: 1-3. Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation. 2. Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray. 3. My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct [my prayer] unto thee, and will look up.

Doctrinally: You can surely see by now how this will be a tribulation prayer. This will be a picture of the Nation of Israel in the second half of the tribulation period, and they're crying out to God in their time of trouble. This is illustrated many times through the book of Psalms, throughout the Old Testament, and it's categorized in Revelation 6:10 as the tribulation prayers of the souls under the altar.

Historically: It will be David going through his personal attacks and the trials of his life that he had to go through, and him then praying for God's deliverance.

Inspirationally: This will be a great passage for all of us as we face the struggles of life. **As I've told you before, all history will be about God moving through history and time to accomplish His plan, and the devil moving in opposition to stop Him and His plan.** It is the key to the Bible and to history.

The Bible tells us in Job 41:12 how he will do that—how the devil will try to intervene and stop what God was doing in history. *I will not conceal his parts, nor his power, nor his comely proportion.*

The Devil's Parts, Power, and Comely Proportion in History

Parts. I've told you that when you look at it from a historical Biblical perspective, **his parts will be the men that the devil has used down through history to stop the Nation of Israel.** The list is endless. It starts with Cain up to Nebuchadnezzar to Titus and moves its way all the way up to where we're at today.

Power. The next thing he says is **his power, which will be the nations in history that he used.** The devil's power through the Old Testament, and even up to today, will be through the nations that he controls because these nations take over the world, they dominate other nations, and then the devil works through that to accomplish his plan to stop God's plan.

Comely Proportion. The last thing he says will be his **comely proportion, which will be the religions in history.** That will be the religions the devil has used to stop what God was doing many times through the dark ages through physical death, persecution, martyrdom, and even on up to today.

The Devil's Parts, Power, and Comely Proportion in the Christian Life

And yet, along with that great truth about the key to history, the Christian life will be the same thing just on a more personal level—God wanting to do something with our lives, God beginning the process, and then the devil and his crowd moving in to stop you, and again, it will be by the same three areas.

Parts. The Bible tells us in 1 John 2:18-23 that there are many antichrists. Now that doesn't mean there are a thousand antichrists out there, but just like there's a Christ and millions of Christians, there's THE Antichrist and millions of antichrists—**people that do the work for him and people (saved or lost) who will come into your life to stop you.**

Power. **The power will be taking the power of God from a person's life,** and now through the power of the world, education, greed, the flesh...that when it comes to the Bible, the ministry, and church...so you get stopped. Did you ever notice in the world today, and we're in a mess, yet repeatedly you hear that education is the answer. Every problem that society faces, they think two things will solve it—throw money at it and educate them. You don't educate people out of sin unless you use a Bible. Old Bob Jones Senior, and I know he's way out there now, but he said one time that *education without salvation is damnation.*

Comely proportion. **This will be the false churches and the teaching today that will destroy you; that will take the Bible right out of your hands.** That will be the churches with no Bible. People today have completely lost the concept of the Bible-based New Testament church out of the books of Acts and Ephesians. I gave it to you the last time we were together—the anatomy of a church. He tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:21, and I don't know why we choose not to follow this, *Prove all things.* Sometimes we want something to be truth so badly that we really don't want to prove it wrong because we want to keep it. I'm telling you, that's human nature. We all do it.

In my ministry there have been many cases of God doing something and somebody stopping it. Years ago, I had a couple of guys in my ministry, and they were doing really well. They were learning the Bible and God was doing some things in their lives. I thought they had great potential. Then a super spiritual guy who was the point man for a Bible college in the south got ahold of them. He began to pull these kids aside and told them they needed to get a degree for God to really use them. In time, he took them out of the ministry and into the Bible college. Ten years later, these guys were completely destroyed of God doing anything with them. Today, they're out of church and doing nothing for the Lord.

Years later, one of them wanted to meet with me. He told me how sorry he was for not staying where God had put him, and how now he is in a dark place in his life (his words) and he simply couldn't get back. His faith in everything had been destroyed. He was angry at this guy and how he had lied and deceived him. I listened for a while, and when he was done, I said to him that he needed to get something straight. I said that guy never deceived you; you got it wrong—you allowed yourself to be deceived. You knew better. You had the Book and had a church that taught you the Book that laid a solid foundation in your life, but you refused to use it.

I see it with parents. Their daughter or son gets hooked up with the wrong person and winds up in a bad marriage or divorce. I've had parents come complaining that this person ruined their child. But who taught your child the value system of finding a spouse? You did. This person didn't deceive your child, but rather through your lack of teaching and parenting them Biblically—you have deceived yourself.

I'm telling every one of you—the devil wants to stop you. And if you don't hear anything else I say this morning, you better hear that one. It's just that simple. And just like history, just like Job 41:12, he'll use parts, power, and comely proportion to stop you. And for you, what most of you know about the Bible, no man should deceive you either; but rather, you'll only allow yourselves to be deceived like those boys so many years ago.

We live in a Christian world where we like to pick and choose out of the Bible what we want to follow. Now that's a terrible situation to find yourself in...you choose not to take this verse because it goes against what you want to do. **When it comes to the Bible, the whole counsel of God, you don't pick and choose anything.** The Bible says *The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet (Proverbs 27:7).*

The Example of the Apostle Paul

Paul, without a doubt, will be the greatest example of the parts, power, and comely proportion in the Christian life. Paul was trained by the best. When you get over there in the books of Acts, and you start to look at some of the things he was taught and where he came from...he was a doctor of the law, he was top of his class, he was a Pharisee of the Pharisees. He was more in tune, and he understood it all. **And yet Paul says in Philippians 3:4-8, after he got saved, he didn't pick and choose any more.** No, he laid it all right down on the line. And I find that most preachers today have a tough time laying it on the line. They don't want people to get upset with them, they don't want to lose people out of their church, they don't want to hurt their income, etc., so they too will pick and choose.

And Paul said in *Philippians 3: 4-8, Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:* (You know what he's saying? He says **when it comes to higher education and the flesh, there isn't anybody out there who can even come close to him**).

Verse 5. Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, [of] the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; (He wasn't just a Hebrew; he was a Hebrew of the Hebrews. **He put himself above the ordinary Hebrews**) *as touching the law, a Pharisee;*

Verse 6. Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. (what he's saying is that **all that stuff—A Pharisee, degrees, teaching, the law, the Hebrew of Hebrews—when it came to Christ, he didn't need it anymore**).

Verse 8. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, (he says that **when he got Jesus, and when he got the word of God, he lost everything else that he once thought really**

did something for him) and do count them but dung, (now it gets a little graphic—all of those things were all in the flesh) *that I may win Christ,* (which clearly tells you that those who brag on their education and degrees are in the flesh).

Don't be deceived. Don't be disarmed. And don't be discouraged.

IV. Five Good Principles for your Life

Now our passage today has five really good principles for us in our time of trouble, that you need to not only get in your Bible, but also in your life because it goes right along with the flow of where we've been.

❖ The First Principle—A Direct command to God to Give Ear to My Words

Psalms 5:1 *Give ear to my words, O LORD,* Wow! Now maybe to you that's not much of a statement, but **did you ever notice how direct that is to God?** Most of God's people ask God if He's listening. It's like the popular *Footprints in the Sand* poem where the speaker fears that God has left because the footprints go from two sets to just one until the speaker learns that's when he was being carried. And people buy into that, but the truth is that he never walks beside you and he never carries you. You know why? It's because you're in His body; you're part of His body—that's the doctrine of it. That's the truth of it, but we get this idea of God; where are you? Do you hear me, Lord?

This verse is a direct command to God to give ear to my words, O LORD. **No asking, but a prayer of somebody who knows through his relationship with God that God is listening to him.** Now this is the confidence that I talked about a couple of weeks ago.

I John 5:14-15. And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15. And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

You know what's really lacking in our Christian lives? We're saved, we have the right Bible, we love the Lord, we love each other. You know the real problem we have today—a lack of confidence of Him in our lives. When the Bible tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to *pray without ceasing*, it's built on that concept right there. Our confidence that we have in Him to say give ear to my words, oh Lord, and not asking if He's hearing anything. Coming to him anytime. Now how does that happen? Simply, for Him to give ear to my words and **my confidence will simply be based on me giving ear first to His word.**

Confidence is something that in any relationship will lead to trust. And trust, in time, will lead to a relationship. This then leads to friendship. **There is absolutely no relationship with God, Christ, or anybody without those two elements—confidence and trust.** My confidence is in God; therefore, I totally trust Him in every situation, so that when I cry out to Him, based on my relationship, I have the confidence that He hears me. And the trust through the relationship of Him being my friend.

Now the great example of that would be Moses and God. If you want to find a man who had a relationship with God on a friend basis like we should have, it's Moses. He spoke to God face to face like a man speaks to his friend. You should see their dialogue. He has confidence in God. Now I know he didn't start out that way, but neither did we; however, he built that confidence, and in time, that confidence leads to trust, that leads to a relationship, that leads to friendship.

❖ The Second Principle—O Lord, Consider My Meditation

Now look at the second thing here found in verse 1, *O LORD, consider my meditation*. Be honest. When we read verses like the first few verses here, it's just like it flows and it says something, but we move on to what's on television; however, he said *consider my meditation*. **This will be where our mind has been or where our thoughts are when we cry out to God.** When we go to God and ask Him to hear us. This will be Isaiah 26:3. Has your mind been stayed on Him because the first thing He does when we cry out to God is consider our meditation. He looks at our attitude of heart of what we are actually asking. He considers our meditation. He considers what we have been thinking that brought about the request.

This will be found in detail in Romans 8:26-27, *Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: (I get that) but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27. (Here it comes) And he that searcheth the hearts (looks at your meditation) knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

You see God in our requests and our prayer, searching our hearts and our meditation to see if it really lines up with God's will or not. The great example of this in the Old Testament is Abraham when he's praying for Lot. He barter with God and has a conversation with God; he also is God's friend. Now for us, if you want a great study on this sometime, take Matthew 15:22-28 and look at that story, and then put it into the outline that I'm about to give you.

The Canaanite Woman's Prayer in Matthew 15:22-28

Jesus is doing all the miracles with the Nation of Israel, and up shows a woman who has a very sick daughter. And the Bible says she's a black woman—a Canaanite (that's important). And she comes to Jesus, and I can just see it—there's a whole crowd around Him—and she's trying to get his attention. The disciples are annoyed by this, so they try to get rid of her. But this woman isn't going anywhere; she's persistent. She cries out to him—like Psalms 5. Finally, she gets up to Him, and she says to Him that her daughter is sick to the point of death and asks for His help. Three times he ignores her. She comes in verse 23, lays it out, and receives no answer. She comes back in verse 24 and lays it out again. What happened to the Jesus, Lover of my soul? He ignores her the second time. She comes yet again in verse 26, and He answers her with a racial slur. He calls her a dog. And what does she do? Finally in verses 27-28, she gets her prayer answered, and through this story, we see and get defined for us the word confidence.

You see, confidence will carry you through when you don't get the answer you want, you don't get any answer, or you get slapped in the face and take it personal. All of those

happened to this woman. Now watch this—five key areas in her prayer life that when she cried out to God, she stayed with it because she had confidence in who He was.

Five Key Areas of the Canaanite Woman's Prayer Life in Matthew 15

- 1.) **She has the right position.** She knows she's a sinner (verse 27), so she's not expecting anything. She's coming as a sinner. When we come to God, how do we come? As the old hymn goes...*Nothing in my hands I bring, simply to Thy cross I cling.*
- 2.) **She has the right perspective.** She knows not only who she is, but she knows who He is (verse 22)—thou Son of David. That says it all! In one word, she outdoes the scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees hands down.
- 3.) **She has the right purpose.** She's coming not for herself but for somebody else—her daughter.
- 4.) **She has the right persistence.** She stays with it in the face of no answer in verses 23, 24, and 26. She stays with it when the disciples try to get rid of her and when seemingly God isn't going to answer her. She has confidence.
- 5.) **She has the right promises** (verse 27). He asked her if it was meet to give the bread of the children of Israel to dogs. And she popped up Proverbs 12:10 which says *A righteous [man] regardeth the life of his beast:* And she said she was His dog, and He had nowhere to go. She had confidence in what He had written, and she knew He had to stay with what He had written.

Where's your confidence at when it comes to that Book? Why do we have the issues of worry, fret, and all the things that we go through in life when you have the greatest Book in the world that has every answer to anything you're going to struggle with if you just have the right confidence?

Here's a new one for you—keeping God accountable. Wow! That almost sounds like it's sin. Keeping God accountable. Hey! He wrote the Book. If He's God enough to write it, then He's God enough to inspire it, and He's God enough to keep it. And I have confidence in it, so if God tells me something, I'll hold Him accountable to it and let Him figure it out but give me the answer in His own timing. Why? This is the confidence I have in Him. So nobody is dancing around saying Lord please hear me; no, no, no...**and from this story and in Romans 8:26-27, we learn another four great things about God considering our meditation and our confidence that He's going to answer our prayer and our understanding through our confidence and how He works through prayer.**

Why do we sometimes not get the answers right away the way we want them? **When I pray to God, and He searches my heart through the Spirit, lining it up with the will of God, what is He looking for?**

- 1.) **Sometimes he just waits around to see if we are really earnest about our prayer because so much prayer is just going through the motions.** We're taught that we should pray, but unfortunately, we're never taught how to pray; therefore, we get caught up in this Pharisaical prayer mode that prayer is this or that; and the guys that teach that have no clue of what prayer really is. And sometimes, so much of our prayer is just

going through the motions. We all do it. Somebody will come to us and ask for prayer; we say we will, but we forget about it and never bring it up at all. We like to talk about how wonderful and spiritual prayer is; we just don't do it the right way.

2.) **It shows us how helpless we sometimes are in the situation we're in without Him.**

You know, I think there are things God wants to do with all of us, me included, but He'll never be able to do it. You know why? It's because we're just too strong. God operates through our weaknesses, and when you bloat yourself up as some great spiritual giant, that's not weakness. But we like to pick and choose. I Corinthians 1:27-29 says the reason He won't answer sometimes when we're so strong, and we're praying to God but we're orchestrating the circumstances and manipulating everything, is no flesh can glory in His presence.

3.) **Sometimes it's to get the selfish motive out of our prayer.** Too much of our prayer life is about us. We take things to God for God to fix, but if we just got into the word of God, we'd find out how to fix them, and we wouldn't even have to pray about it. Oh! I just said there are some things you don't have to pray about. That will put the Pharisees over the top, won't it? **Do you realize that in your Bible you have everything you need to fix just about everything that could go wrong in your life?** You know what prayer is really designed to be about? I'm not saying you don't pray for yourselves when you have issues, but prayer is designed to be praying for others. But not us. We'll say oh, God—will you fix my family? No, he can't fix your family until you fix you. It's in the Book what you've got to do first and fix it without ever bringing it to Him. Whoo...pick and choose. God's people today, all of us, are the most self-conceited and selfish people on planet Earth especially in America. You know why? It's because God's been so good to us in America, and we've reaped the blessings for the last couple hundred years. We've not had the poverty, wars, or tragedies like there have been around the world. America has experienced the blessings of God, and now you're beginning to see it go. But it has spoiled us. The only problems that most of us worry about are the bad situations we get ourselves into because of the stupid choices we make. Is anyone here suffering because of righteousness this morning?

4.) **Refusal is not always a permanent thing.** You see, when we pray about something, we have a snapshot of it. When God sees it, He sees the big picture. We honestly and earnestly pray rightly for what we see, and God searches that out and says they don't see the big picture, but they've got the right attitude and motive. Abraham and Lot are a good example of this. Abraham knows Lot is down in Sodom, and he knows that God is going to destroy Sodom. Abraham comes to God and asks if He would not destroy the city for 50 righteous people, and God agrees. He keeps asking 45, 30...working it all the way down to 10. Now I know Abraham is thinking that Lot has been there for many years and surely Lot had a good influence in 10 people's lives. But he didn't. Now here's what you've got. It's a picture of prayer. God is looking at Abraham's heart, and the Holy Spirit says his prayer is for God not to destroy Sodom & Gomorrah. He has no love for Sodom and knows its wickedness. His love is for his nephew Lot. His prayer is to not destroy Sodom, but the desire of his heart is to save Lot. God did the same thing that He will do with us, God did not answer his prayer because He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, but He gave him the desire of his heart—He saved Lot. You see, God sees the big picture; we don't. We see what we see, and we react to it—sometimes in a right

way, but God wants the option in our lives to say He sees our hearts but wants to work this one out.

❖ The Third Principle—God Hears the Cry of His People

Psalms 5:2 *Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray.* God hearing the cry of His people—what a great thing this is. Did you know that God heard our cry before we were even saved? Psalms 40:1 says, *I waited patiently for the LORD; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.* That's before you were saved. Look at verses 2 and 3, *He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.* 3. *And he hath put a new song in my mouth, [even] praise unto our God: many shall see [it], and fear, and shall trust in the LORD.* Before you were even saved and struggling in this world, and you didn't even know what to cry out for, you were miserable and life was crushing you and you called out for someone to help you...and God heard your cry.

You find that back in Exodus 2 with the children of Israel. **Israel, a picture of you and me, was under the bondage of Egypt, a picture of the world. The Bible says in Exodus 2:23-25 that they cried out to God, and He heard them.** You know what He did? He sent them a deliverer—Moses. When you and I cried out to God in our sin, under the crushing pressure of this world that you couldn't take anymore, He sent us a Deliverer—the Lord Jesus Christ. And He will take away every shackle; He'll take you and set you free from the bondage. God heard, God remembered, God looked, and God sent them a deliverer.

Now after salvation, through the confidence that we have in Him, in your life and relationship with Him—God will hear, God will remember, God will look, God will hearken, and God will send you a deliverer; and you've got 31,171 verses of deliverance in this Book right here. The deliverance of God will always be through the promises of God, found in the word of God, but only working through our confidence in the word of God.

❖ The Fourth Principle—Set Your Affection on Things Above

Psalms 5: 3 *My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct [my prayer] unto thee, and will look up.*

Doctrinally—clearly now you can see the tribulation here and second coming. The morning—second coming and look up—Luke 21:28 (*then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*); Psalm 30:1-5 (*weeping may endure for a night, but joy [cometh] in the morning.*) ...it's all second coming to Israel.

Inspirationally—for you and for me; again, a tremendous teaching. We like to use phrases like *there's light at the end of this tunnel, it's always the darkest before the dawn, and every cloud has a silver lining.* For a child of God with the confidence of God in our relationship and our friendship, we never should focus on the darkness of what we are going through. With every dark night comes the morning sun—the Sun of righteousness. Now the question is how exactly do we do this? What does it mean when I'm in darkness, and I'm told to look up? For Israel, it's the literal second coming, but for us, it's spiritual. **When we go through a dark time and focus**

on the principles of the word of God, my joy in the morning, this is where the Bible tells me to look up.

Colossians 3:1-3. *If ye then be risen with Christ (if you're saved), seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2. (Here it comes) **Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.** 3. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*

For me to look up in my dark time, I don't focus on the darkness. **I set my affection on things above because that's where the answer really is.** The answer is not in the darkness or in the struggle. Even if I caused the mess, I know how to get out of it. Looking up through the darkness and seeing the things above. There are seven of them in the Bible that are above—where my affections should be.

Seven Things to Set Your Affections on from Above

- 1.) **Me.** I'm seated in heavenly places according to Ephesians 2:6. Nothing can stop me down here; nobody can deceive me or take me out of the work or ministry except for me and what I focus on.
- 2.) **Our Loved Ones up in Heaven.** We already know from Hebrews 11 that God uses the Old Testament patriarchs to show an example of faith. There are many people who were special to me who are now up in heaven, and I look at their lives and see that they went through tough times. You know what? God got them through, and they went home to be with the Lord. If you could talk to them, they're rejoicing beyond belief—it's over down here for them. They're up in heaven, and they're my examples of faith that what they went through, I can go through.
- 3.) **Christ Seated at the Right Hand of God Making Intercession for me.** Romans 8. We're not in this thing alone. God is making intercession for you right now in every aspect of your life. I don't care how confused or messed up you are; there's always a way back except when you don't want to come back.
- 4.) **New Jerusalem.** Revelation 21 and Galatians 4:26. New Jerusalem is the mother of us all—everything in my eternal future is going to be right there. Boy! If I'm going through a tough time, I've got a choice to dwell on that or what it's going to be like when we get there.
- 5.) **My Conversation is in Heavenly Places.** Philippians 3:20. That means that when I look for answers, I'm going to go to somebody of like conversation; based on the word of God. And my conversation is going to be with him.
- 6.) **My Bible.** Psalms 119:89-96 says that the word of God is settled in heaven. It's up there right now. It's settled, and the problem if you're not—you don't have the confidence. Are you settled with the book, or are you picking and choosing?
- 7.) **My affections.** Colossians 3:1-2. And this puts them all together. The things I hold dear most in my life and love—the word of God.

❖ The Fifth Principle—He Should be the King who Sits on the Throne of our Lives

Psalms 5:2 *Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King.*

Now here David makes a reference to God as King. In the literal Old Testament kingdom of heaven with a literal throne and a literal kingdom, that is the proper way for David to address Him; but for us individually, it's a little bit different. God is not the king of the church. We're dealing with the spiritual kingdom of God today. Now the Bible says in Ephesians 5:23 that he is the head of the church. The Bible says in 1 Peter 2:25 that he is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, but He is never king of the church.

Now I get it...someday he will be King of kings and Lord of lords, but that's not today. But having said that, **He may not be the king of the church, but He should most definitely be the King who sits on the throne of our lives.** He ought to be first and foremost in everything that we do. If we trust in the flesh, education, degrees, money, ourselves, or our strengths, then these are the things which become the monarchs of your life. They control you; they become your king. But we should be like Paul in Philippians 3:4-8, counting all those things as dung and not be focused on the things about ourselves, but the things which edify others. I Corinthians 8:1 says that much knowledge puffeth up.

V. Summary

This is not popular today, but if you want the real key to a relationship with Christ, stay as dumb as you can. Let every piece of information you get about anything come from God and the word of God, and let Him give you His education; not man's. **Get the wisdom of God, not the wisdom of man.** You just come to the place where you realize that with everything out there that man holds up, everything that glitters is not gold.

That's what Paul really alluded to when he scraped everything off his foundation and went back to square one—that everything that he had learned, all his education—he just scraped right off the foundation and put it into the neighborhood Johnny on the spot. He simply said that he was starting over. **He was not going to do it in the flesh this time but in the power of God.** He never again relied on anything man had to say to him—it all came from God. When God gave him the gospel, it became such a personal thing to him, that after a while he called it *my gospel*, and the spiritual Pharisees said that it wasn't Paul's gospel; it was God's gospel. By that statement, it shows you've never made anything that God gave you personal. It was God's gospel, but he had bought into it with the confidence that he had, and it was his gospel.

What has God put in your life today that you have taken ownership of? Getting the wisdom of God and not the wisdom of man, and Christ alone sitting on the throne of our lives—then he will give us the confidence that we need to face anything. And more importantly, not be stopped dead in our tracks or let the devil through the parts, power, and comely proportions cancel us out, but do the work that He has called us to do. Remember, confidence builds trust, trust builds relationship, relationship builds friendship; the friend of God, and only two men in the Bible have that title.

What do you take ownership of that is God's, but you say it's yours? The word of God—it's mine. That should be the argument we all have—you should say it's yours, too. There should be 180 people standing up shouting it's theirs. And you know what, we're all right. **But it's making it personally yours that is the key.** Sure, it is God's word, but it's your Bible, too.

You can see what Psalms, when you start to tie these together, gives us about the Christian life on a level that most of us never see. It is having the confidence in Him, that when you ask Him something, you know He hears you. And then giving Him the liberty, through those things I gave you about prayer, to search the hearts and then give you what He wants you to have according to His will.