

Psalms 7:3-5

Sunday 03/17/2024

I. Review

Last week we saw the devastating effect of unconfessed sin in our lives. And so far, coming through the first six chapters of Psalms, we saw the reason why a man gets out of fellowship in Chapter one—walking in the counsel of the ungodly and all those things. As we moved on, we saw how he had to face the chastisement of God. I showed you how doctrinally this is Israel going through their trouble because of their rejection. It's David historically, but it's you and me inspirationally. Then in Chapter six, we saw that he does get back. He casts off his sin, he recognizes where the problem is, and like the prodigal son—he comes back to his father.

Last week we were in chapter seven, and I showed you the difference in his prayer. Now he's trusting in the Lord, yet he still must contend with his enemies who are always going to be there. When we saw last week the reference to the lion, I took you over to the New Testament principle in I Peter 5:8 and showed you how this will be the devil, who is our real adversary, who wants to destroy and devour us.

❖ Leprosy—A Picture of Sin in our Lives

I also showed you leprosy in the Bible in Leviticus Chapter 13 (you might have known it would be chapter 13), and how leprosy in the Bible is a picture of sin that we get into in our lives. It eats away at your flesh; it leaves a mark on you. I showed you that as a type of sin there are three stages of leprosy in a man's life. It gets into his flesh, it gets into his garments, and it gets into his house. It completely destroys him. And in Bible numerology, we know that number three is the number of completion. Leprosy will have its completion in your life when it destroys your family.

❖ Consecration under the Blood from Head to Toe

Then I showed you the picture of our complete consecration to God and the things of God and how we are to be separated from the world. I showed you this in Leviticus Chapter 8—how they put the blood on the right ear, the right thumb, and the right big toe. That's a picture of us being consecrated under the blood from head to toe.

❖ Our Adversary the Devil as a Roaring Lion

To illustrate the lion who wants to devour you, I took you back to I Kings Chapter 13 (again, you might have known it would be chapter 13).

I showed you the two ways the devil will attack you as your adversary who is walking about.

- First you have the story of the man of God, who got the message of God and is told to go preach that message against the nation of Israel and the wicked King Jeroboam. The first thing I showed you was that Jeroboam tries to reward him and buy him off if he won't preach the message that God gave him.

- When that didn't work, the second thing you saw that the devil used was the story of the old prophet. The devil used the old prophet to lie and deceive this young man. He gets the young man pulled off the mission that God had for him, and winds up getting him killed, by having the young man follow him instead of God's house of bread and the true message of God.

❖ Eternal Security

The Bible tells us that after the young man's disobedience to the word of God, a lion (a picture of the devil) meets him in the way and kills him. **I showed you through this story how the devil cannot devour a Christian.** We talked about the aspect of demon possession versus demon oppression and went through all of that. **This is an Old Testament story which illustrates the New Testament principle about your eternal security.** The devil can destroy your flesh; we saw that in I Corinthians 5:1-5. You can be turned over to the devil for the destruction of the flesh if you don't do what's right. He can get everything your flesh is. He can rip you, tear you, destroy you; he can leave you as this young man with his carcass on the side of the road.

The devil can leave your flesh along the side of the road of life, but he can never get your soul. According to Ephesians 4, your soul is sealed. Never can he devour you. It's a great lesson out of the Old Testament stories that will show you the New Testament doctrine.

Over the years I've heard many sermons on how you cannot lose your salvation, and we know that you cannot lose your salvation. It's true, but they will give you verse after verse going through lists of reasons; however, all they really do is make it so complicated that you kind of lose everything in the minutia of it all. In most cases, it's just a waste of reading time. This is what happens when a man gets educated beyond his intelligence and wants to impress people with the things he writes.

When it comes to understanding your eternal security, the fact that you cannot lose your salvation, you only need to go to three places in your Bible. You don't need four, one hundred, two hundred...you just need three.

- Colossians 2—Spiritual Circumcision. When you understand Colossians 2, you know why you could never lose your salvation. It's the inside workings of what takes place the exact moment you trust Christ as your own personal Savior.
- I Kings 13. This is where you see the story that illustrates Colossians 2.
- Ephesians 4:30. This is where the Bible says you were sealed by the Holy Spirit of God.

When you know the doctrine of these three, nothing else needs to be said or needs to be added. It's just that simple. It's never been, as you hear all the time—*Once saved always saved*, but rather Biblically it should be—*Once you get born into God's family, show me the process to get unborn*. There lies the difference. I Peter 1:23 says you were born again with incorruptible seed. **You can NEVER get unborn from God.** Anybody not using these three references is suspect.

I told you the importance of the books of the Bible forming an outline structure of God's plan with the 66 books giving us that picture. The books lay out the framework that shows you what

God is doing throughout the Bible and throughout history. I know not all of you will take the Bible as seriously as you should. It's not a criticism; it's just a way of life; however, if you ever decide that you're going to get the Book down, you're going to have to start with those books—one at a time.

II. Psalms 7:3-5 – Staying in Fellowship

Now today, let's look at our next set of verses in Psalms 7.

3. O LORD my God, If I have done this; if there be iniquity in my hands;

4. If I have rewarded evil unto him that was at peace with me; (yea, I have delivered him that without cause is mine enemy:)

5. Let the enemy persecute my soul, and take it; yea, let him tread down my life upon the earth, and lay mine honour in the dust. Selah.

Here again we find another key to our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and our staying in fellowship. Thus far we've come through this thing almost systematically. We saw him walking with the wrong crowd, getting out of fellowship, experiencing God's chastisement, coming to himself, getting right, and now we see how he's going to stay in fellowship.

These verses are clearly a man who has come back to God and is now looking inwardly. He's examining himself to make sure that he is doing what's right. He's covered from head to toe with the blood, and now he's careful to keep his heart where it needs to be. You and I will see today how we do this.

If you've looked at Psalms, or maybe you've read it through a couple of times in your own Bible reading, you will see that much of Psalms is a man talking inwardly to God...talking to himself. And yet we all know, from the world's standpoint, that one of the first signs of being crazy is talking to yourself. When someone accuses me of talking to myself, I just snap back, "I'm self-employed, and I'm having a business meeting!"

I Samuel 1:13-15 is a great example. Hannah is praying to the Lord, and the Bible says she's praying inwardly. Her mouth is moving, but no audible words are coming out. What do they say? They think she's drunk. The world looks at you and me talking inwardly, maybe verbalizing with our lips what we're saying that no one hears but God, as being nuts.

❖ Doing Business with God

A couple of weeks ago I showed you four different types of prayer. One of them was just sitting and talking to God—just looking inwardly and speaking to God. That's what we have here, and I want you to see this. **This is where you will really build your relationship with God. This will be the intimate talks you have with Him.** This is what I Thessalonians 5:17 means when it says *pray without ceasing*. The Pharisees and the scribes can never get to this. This is what I

call doing business with God. **It's checking your heart attitude and keeping it close to the Lord.**

III. Looking Inward to See if Our Hands are Clean Before God—Verse 3

v. 3...*if there be iniquity in my hands*; Now this is him looking inside himself, talking to the Lord, and saying to the Lord, “Lord, if there be iniquity in my hands.” **Our hands will always represent what we do in life whether good or bad.**

- *Proverbs 6:17. A proud look, a lying tongue, and **hands that shed innocent blood,***
- *Psalms 18:34. **He teacheth my hands to war...** In a good sense—talking about you and me learning our Bible.*
- *Psalms 18:24. **Therefore hath the LORD recompensed me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his eyesight.***
- *Psalms 90:17. **And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.***

Good or bad, our hands in a spiritual sense will either be to do the things for God or do the things against God.

Last week I showed you the right ear, the right thumb, and the right big toe under the blood. Thumbs are so important, and most people don't ever think about this. You go back to Judges 1:7—when they caught those kings, they cut off their thumbs and their big toes. You may ask, what's up with that? **It's because your big toe keeps you in balance when you walk, so for a Christian it needs to be under the blood, so you stay balanced. And try to grasp something without your thumb. It's the thumb that anchors your grip to what you're grabbing. When your thumb is under the blood, it will anchor your grasp to learn the Bible. It's just that simple.**

Good or bad, the work of our hands will establish who we are. **This man is looking inward to see if his hands are clean before God. Inwardly looking at yourself with the Lord is the most honest thing we can do.** We may not always be honest with each other because we don't want people to know what we're really like or to think bad of us. I understand that. It's human nature to tell your side from the most positive perspective, but not when it comes to God.

❖ Honesty is the Best Policy

*Hebrews 4:13. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: **but all things [are] naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.***

When you talk to God, honesty is always the best policy because He already knows what the truth is. This is why this is so important because otherwise we will slip away from being honest with the things of God. It isn't the 100 Bible principles which you have memorized that keep you close to God, it isn't having the right Bible, and it isn't being involved in ministry or

working in people's lives. **What keeps you close to God is when you're honest with God, between you and Him, and nobody else sees or hears—inwardly to Him.**

He's looking inward to see if his hands are clean before God. We are to be the helping hand to others even if they're against us. I know that's not always possible because some people just simply won't have anything to do with us, but it should never be on our side of the fence. The Bible makes it very clear in Ezekiel 3:18 that if we don't witness, the blood of other people who die and go to hell can be on our hands.

The Bible also talks about in Galatians 2:9 extending the right hand of fellowship. That's an **incredible story showing how the ministry should work together.**

The inward aspect that he starts with is his hands because he understands that his hands define him. Our hands today, wherever they have been, define us.

IV. Giving Longsuffering and Patience to Others— Verse 4

v.4 If I have rewarded evil unto him that was at peace with me; He's talking to himself here. He is not making a statement outwardly; he is talking to the Lord inwardly.

Romans 12:18 tells us that *if it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.* That's a great verse. I love the part where he says *as much as lieth in you.* You will find in Christianity some folks who just always want to stir up trouble. I look at my 50+ years in the ministry as nothing more than a test tube—testing what's real versus what's not and watching how God does something or how he does not do it. I call those that like to stir up trouble “Vacuum Cleaner Christians” because they pick up every piece of dirt they can find. They're always in the middle of some issue or controversy.

Maybe it's because of the way we do things here, but we don't have people like that today in our church; however, we had a person like this about 10 or 15 years ago. She was so negative that she would make the Wicked Witch of the West look good. This lady had a problem with everything. She would magnify every problem, even though her family was a disaster. I went home one day after having a bad morning with her and saw a neighbor who was also a very dominant woman who had a little chihuahua dog she was very impatient with. She kept yanking his leash and hurrying him, so he couldn't even settle down and do his doggy business. I thought—thank you, Lord...that's exactly what I'm dealing with. A dominating woman and a little chihuahua husband she's got on a leash, and I guarantee you when you take the dog back inside and he wets on the carpet, you're going to beat the dog. Some folks bring joy wherever they go, and honestly some folks bring joy when they go.

People want to stir up problems. It's like they dedicate themselves to being the “Minister of Destruction.” I've seen it all my ministry, but I'm going to tell you something. People like that can't see it, but I know it's true in my life and I know it is for most of you, that **when you look**

inside your own heart with God like Psalms 7:3-5, you don't have time to look at the issues in somebody else's life. My life is a full-time job just taking care of me.

We all have issues, but when it comes to God, the thing I love Him for most after my salvation is His longsuffering toward me... and that should be our ministry to others.

When you neglect your own issues because you will not look inside and get honest with God, the reason you have to look at somebody else's issues is so you don't have to look at your own.

Looking inwardly, you ask yourself.... Lord, *if I have rewarded evil unto him that was at peace with me....* make that known to me. That should be our ministry to others—patience and longsuffering. That doesn't mean you don't deal with the issue or hold them accountable...it means you give them the same things that God has given us, and that is patience and longsuffering to get to where they need to be. Our job is not to focus on the negativity, and too many of God's people...that's all they do. You need to focus on what's wrong with you. Our job should be to help each other be all we can be for God, but you lose that when all you want to see is outwardly and you never look at yourself inwardly.

❖ Not Everyone is Going to Make it

Speaking from my own experience, there will be people who will not make it. It's an illusion for any pastor to think that you can build a church, keep it moving, and do what's right without losing people. **There will always be people (like in our story in 1 Kings) who will either sell out to Jeroboam or hook-up with the old prophet. Somebody or something will pull them off what God has for them.** But for you and for me, the key is having a clear conscience. You want to have a clear conscience before God that it wasn't something you didn't do to help them as best you could. There are going to be people who you work with, and you invest your life and time with, who are going to walk away and never say thanks; however, you want to always be able to look inwardly and realize that you always did what was right with them even though they didn't do what was right with you, and keep a good attitude about it. The only way you do that is being honest with God inwardly and knowing you have a good conscience before God. That's all you can do. Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't.

I told you before, in the day and age we live in—the Laodicean church period, about the net (03/14/2024 Bible Study) in the last parable in Matthew 13. I have no illusions about the time we live in. I have no illusions about where Christianity is or where God's people are today and why they have the problems they have. All I can say to you is this—**my job, and the burden in my heart, is to save as many of them as I can.**

V. Don't Cause a Problem Where you Don't have a Problem—Second Part of Verse 4

v.4 ... (yea, I have delivered him that without cause is mine enemy:).

You ought to be able to see the reference here to Israel dealing with Christ. It was John 15:25, and there are other places like Psalms 35:19, where it says, *But [this cometh to pass], that the*

word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause. Christ gave no man a cause to hate him. He's the only man that did everything right, but some didn't want anything to do with Him. You're going to find yourself in that situation, and it's going to be tempting to step outside the principles.

Proverbs 3:30 Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm.

I have a simple rule that I follow in ministry, and it's simply this—don't cause a problem where you don't have a problem. There will be enough problems that come along in life without you causing a problem where you don't have one because you don't see the thing inwardly first before you see it outwardly.

VI. Being Honest with Yourself—Verse 5

v. 5 Let the enemy persecute my soul, and take it; yea, let him tread down my life upon the earth, and lay mine honour in the dust. Selah. Now this is one of the greatest concepts you're going to find anywhere in the Bible, and what he's saying here is so simple. **He said, Lord (looking inside) if I've done something for you to judge me, judge me.** He's now getting as honest with God as he can.

This is exactly what Paul does in Acts 25:10-11 when he is standing before Ceasar's judgment seat, and they're accusing him of all kinds of things. He says, *For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die:* He used the same principle. Looking inwardly, accepting responsibility for the things we do, and then dealing with them.

❖ Remaining Blameless

There will be times when we make mistakes, bad judgment calls, or bad choices. The key is to be blameless in it. Now how do you do that? How do you be blameless when you're to blame? The reason you can be blameless when you make a mistake is because you recognize it was your mistake; you own it and take responsibility for it. You never try to blame it on somebody else. It just comes down to being honest with yourself.

I can't remember a politician who ever took responsibility for a dumb mistake that he made. They always blame it on somebody else. These guys look at being honest and taking responsibility as some kind of weakness. People don't want a perfect politician. They just want a real one, and real people make mistakes; however, real people take responsibility for them...and in that you're blameless.

Thomas Edison tried thousands of times to make a light bulb and failed every time. Finally, he built the lightbulb we all use today. When somebody asked him what he thought of the thousands of failures, he said he didn't have thousands of failures but rather he had found thousands of ways not to build a light bulb.

Failure in our lives is not always a matter of weakness. It can sometimes be a steppingstone to building character, if you allow it to, but only if you take it inwardly. Blaming your problems on someone else just exacerbates the problem. **Being blameless is taking responsibility for the things we have done that are wrong, that may have hurt somebody, and then making it right.** If you do that and the person is still angry, then it's on them. It always comes back to a conscience toward God that inwardly you know you did the right thing.

VII. New Testament Principle—2 Corinthians 13:5-6

Psalms 7:3-5 sets up the New Testament principle and doctrine found in 2 Corinthians 13:5-6. This is one of the greatest places in the Bible, I think, that goes along with what we're reading here in Psalms.

2 Corinthians 13:5-6. Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

6. But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates.

Now when it comes to Psalm 7 and looking inwardly, you will find three key areas you need to look at in your life to examine yourself in. These three will form the basis of our walk and relationship with God, and certainly our communication with Him. Self-examination will be the key to it. After we get right, like we've seen the man in Psalms do, self-examination will help us stay right. You follow these three principles in your life, and you will eliminate most of the issues that we all have.

Three Key Areas to Examine Yourself In:

1. ***Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith.*** Now most of the time I've heard this taught as a way to make sure of your salvation. I understand that. You need to make sure you're saved, but not every day. Here the phrase is *in the faith*. Paul has already told them in verse six that he knows they're saved (not reprobates), so this *in the faith* means more than just salvation.

I've told you that faith in your Bible comes in two basic, different forms. The same faith; just two stages of it.

- a. **Faith to be saved—a measure of faith.** This is called in Romans 12:3 *the measure of faith*. **For you to get saved, God gives you just enough faith to believe what He says.** God doesn't give you the faith to go be a missionary or to be a pastor...that comes later. He just gives you the measure of faith that you can see and believe the principles and trust Him as your own personal Savior.
- b. **Faith after you're saved—a developed faith based on the measure of faith.** This will be based on 2 Peter 1:5-8 where it talks about perfecting your faith.

2 Peter 1: 5-8 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6. And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7. And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

*8. For if these things be in you, and abound, **they make [you that ye shall] neither [be] barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

Now he says there are seven things that you need to add to your faith; that develop your faith after you get saved. Most of God's people couldn't tell you what half of these really are; **yet these are the seven key areas that he says if they're in you (v.8) and they abound, that you'll never be barren nor unfruitful.** Notice what he says...He doesn't say in the ministry, on the mission field, or in your Christian life. It says ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful **in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.** That's the key...knowing Him. The knowledge of Him. How does that happen? You don't get that out of a book. You know where you get that? Inwardly...talking with Him. It's the greatest relationship builder you'll ever have in your life.

These are the seven core Christian principles we need to have in our life as we add to our faith (virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, charity).

2. **Prove your own selves.** For a child of God, as we grow inwardly then outwardly, there are a number of things that a Christian needs to prove. Most of God's people are oblivious to these, too.
 - a. I Thessalonians 5:21 We are told to *Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.* This means you aren't gullible, whether it be in something someone told you, a relationship, etc. You don't go off the deep end. You prove all things, and only after you prove it do you hold fast—but you only hold fast to that which is good. Notice to hold fast, you need your thumb!
 - b. 2 Corinthians 8:8 tells us that we *prove the sincerity of your love* through our giving. I never preach on money or giving here. If you grow and do what's right, it takes care of itself. But in any church and in any situation, you're going to have God's people that take, take, take, and never give anything back. They always leave the burden on somebody else. They claim that they love God, but the Bible principle says if you want to prove the sincerity of your love, you do it by what you give Him. You give things to people you love.
 - c. *Malachi 3:8 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.* God says Israel has robbed Him in tithes and offerings. I'm not really preaching on it;

I'm just going through the principle because God's people get out of balance sometimes.

- d. *Galatians 6:4 says but let every man prove his own work.* You see that in Acts 13 with Paul and Barnabas. They were in a church, and they proved themselves to the church before God ever sent them out anywhere.
- e. *Romans 12:1-2 says I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which] is your reasonable service. 2. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may **prove** what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.* Proving the will of God in our lives. How? By a daily renewing inwardly. Remember, the will of God is not what you do, but the will of God is who you really are—inwardly. You find out who you are by looking inwardly and being honest with yourself. **A child of God DOES have something to prove. He has to prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

3. **Know your own selves—knowing who we really are.** In the Christian life, it would be safe to say forgetting who we really are will be the root source of all the issues we probably have. Knowing your own self will always keep things in perspective. Man educates himself and soon his pride takes over, and now he thinks he's somebody when in truth, he's nobody without the word of God. Higher education will build nothing in your life with God.

I told you a couple of weeks ago that **the greatest lies in life are the ones we tell ourselves** not the ones we tell others. Every Christian should know their limitations. **Every child of God should know their strengths and their weaknesses and work on those things to perfect them. You can only do that by looking inwardly.** The idea of picking and choosing out of the Bible what we follow or what we don't want to follow will go back to the Biblical principles. You lie to yourself when you say things like... "I don't have to follow this," "I'll follow this and not follow that," "Here are the rules, but for me, I can do this when the Bible says I can't."

James 1:23-25. *For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: **The word of God is a natural looking glass. It shows us our natural face.***

Verse 24 says...*For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. **The word of God shows us clearly who we really are, and sometimes we don't like that.*** This is why when a person starts to get out of fellowship, the first thing they do is get out of the Bible. The second thing they do is get out of church. They're going to take the Book out of their life that forces them to see, and they're going to take the church out of their life where a man will keep them focused on who they really are. It's just that simple.

Verse 25 says...*But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth [therein] (there's the key), he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.* When a man looks in the word of God, he sees his own reflection. When you look into the word of God, you'll never see the reflection of somebody else you don't like, and you'll never see the reflection of somebody else you don't think is as good as you are. **When you look into the word of God, the only reflection you see is your own.** That's so important.

Ladies, you all look lovely today, but you didn't look that way when you got up. You would never come to church by just getting up, putting on your clothes, and walking out the door. You have body-shopped yourself to the place where you look really good. There's nothing wrong with that. You had to work at it. Guys do it, too. Their hair must be just perfect—sculptured is the word. The point I'm trying to make is that God's people do the same thing. They put on their best Christian face when they come to church or Bible study. Physically it's okay to fix yourself up and look good, but spiritually it never works because we are who we are.

When you look into the word of God, it strips away all that stuff and you see your natural face—what you really look like. Some people can't handle that. None of us like it, but it's always good for us because it strips away all the veneer of who we think we really are and takes us inwardly as this fellow in Psalms 7 who is looking and examining himself.

VIII. Summary

That's what the word of God does. When we examine ourselves, who we really are, there is no illusion that we are anything on our own. This is what the man in our Psalms (David) is doing. Coming back to God will be the reality check. It's knowing where we were and now where we need to be by seeing who we really are and the mistakes we've made. It's looking inward and examining ourselves in these three areas: in the faith, proving ourselves, and knowing our own selves. It will keep you where you need to be after you get back.

Now for me, the greatest example of this is found in Psalms 139:1-6. I think it's the epitome of a man looking in himself and being honest with God. **There are so many times I've used this as the beginning of where I needed to get to. This is another Psalm of David who is again, looking inwardly.**

Psalms 139:1-6. O lord, thou hast searched me, and known [me] (David already knows that God knows who he really is).

2. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off (there is your imagination and your daydreaming).

3. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted [with] all my ways.

4. For [there is] not a word in my tongue, [but], lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether.

5. *Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.*

6. *[Such] knowledge [is] too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot [attain] unto it.*

You see, this will form the great model for all of us in looking inwardly. Just simply getting honest with God. And the reality of it all (verses 1-4) is that God already knows who I really am. We can sham each other, but you cannot do it to Him. He searches me, and He knows me.

In spite of it all (verses 5-6), **He still took me in and touched my life with His mercy and grace. When you understand this, look inwardly, and build that relationship with God on the inside (like the guy here), you'll come to the place that you'll never understand what God needs any of us for, or why He puts up with us. Why He is so longsuffering toward us. Why He exercises such patience toward us. But because He does, when you look inwardly, it makes you love Him even more.** It makes you want to give Him everything. It makes you want to find out what pleases Him, what helps Him, what your job is, and then give Him everything that He needs to get the job done because He gave up everything to get you into Heaven.

So now we see in our ongoing study of Psalms, week by week, the picture of our life through the life of David so far. And today, **after we get back to fellowship with God, the key is staying in fellowship with God.** Whatever you've got going on with God inwardly, or whatever you've got going on with the world inwardly, in time will come out outwardly. That's the whole idea. Your inward relationship with God will only produce the fruit of an outward relationship with God. Looking inside ourselves and not deceiving ourselves of who we really are.

Next week, we're going to get to the next level. We will see another great aspect of our Christian life once we have these things in a tiered position of growth. We will see another great aspect of where we go from here in our Christian lives once we get the inward thing going, stay in fellowship, and we'll see where this thing is going to take you to the next level. When the Bible says *set your affection on things above*, we'll show you what that means.