

PSALMS

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Psalm 112 as we continue our study through the Word of God. In our last study, in Psalm 111, we saw the Psalmist close with fear and a specific fear, the fear of the Lord. That same idea is picked up here in Psalm 112 and it is interesting as you look at our society today, fear is a big problem for many Americans! The American Psychiatric Association speaks of these fears as phobias. Now, according to the American Psychiatric Association, a phobia is an irrational and excessive fear of an object or situation. In most cases, the phobia involves a sense of endangerment or a fear of harm. For example, those suffering from agoraphobia fear being trapped in an inescapable place or situation. And there are hundreds of these phobias that are out there. For example,

- Alektorophobia: Fear of chickens [Colonel Sanders did not have this one!]
- Coulrophobia: Fear of clowns [Yes, after watching Killer Clowns from Outer Space!]
- Geniophobia: Fear of chins [Kirk Douglas had this one I think!]
- Novercaphobia: Fear of your stepmother
- Paraskavedekatriaphobia: Fear of Friday the 13th [Is this the movie or the day?]
- Verbophobia: Fear of words – [I don't have this one!]
- Panophobia: Fear of everything. [Just in case I missed one of your fears!]

Now we have all these fears and yet, there is one fear that will drive all these other fears away and that is the fear of the **LORD!** Psalm 111 ended with that thought, **“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom . . .”** Psalm 111:10a. And as we will see this evening, this is where Psalm 112 opens up, with the fear of the Lord and what that will do in our lives. So let's begin reading in Psalm 112, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word.

PSALM 112**VERSE 1**

1. The Psalmist is saying that if you truly fear the Lord, if you respect who He is, then you will obey His commandments. What about you, do you “**delight greatly in His commandments**”? Or maybe you delight in the things of this world and when I speak of this world I am speaking of the wicked things of this world, this world system!

We live in a nation that is very depressed, unhappy and maybe the reason people are so unhappy, so down, so depressed is that they do not fear the Lord in the sense of obeying His commandments, His Word! As we study God’s Word, as we apply God’s Word into our lives we see the beauty of the Lord.

And guess what happens as you spend time in the *SUN*, you get a suntan or *SUNBURN* as the case may be. But, as you spend time in the *SON OF GOD*, as you spend time with *JESUS*, you will be changed, you will become more and more like Him. Paul, in II Corinthians 3:18 put it like this, “**But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**” If you want to change your attitude, then spend time with God, obey His Commandments and you will shout joyfully, you will shout praises unto the One who loves you, Jesus! Your spirit will be lifted up and you will be able to say as the Psalmist, “**Praise the LORD!**”

2. Now we are going to see the Psalmist give us a series of blessings for those who fear the Lord. Let’s read on and see what he has to say.

VERSE 2

1. The first blessing for fearing the Lord and obeying His commandments is that our children will be mighty; they will do well in life. Why is that? Because as they see us live out our faith it will show them that our faith is real and they will desire what we have, the Lord! Yes, it is their decision but you have a better chance of seeing your children coming to the Lord if you are walking in the fear of the Lord and obeying His commandments than if you are not. That just makes sense.

VERSE 3

1. If you are walking in the fear of the Lord and obeying His commandments then you don't need to worry or be fearful of how you will eat, what you will drink, what you will wear. You can trust in the Lord or as Paul put it in Philippians 4:19, "**And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**" You see, we can rest in the Lord and not have to worry about hungering and thirsting after these things, but hunger and thirst after the Lord and He will supply your needs, He has the resources to do that.

Now I am not saying you just sit around and do nothing, we are to work for a living. But we are not to fear these things, that will not help the situation at all and there is no blessing in that! Jesus put it like this in Matthew 6:33-34, "**But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.**" The blessing is walking in the fear of the Lord and being obedient to His commandments and He will take care of our needs!

VERSE 4

1. How in the world can light arise out of the darkness? Very simple, God is gracious; He is full of compassion towards us. Thus, as we walk in the fear of the Lord, as we are obedient to His commandments, the third blessing is that God will light our way, He will guide us through those dark times and dark days! And God will do that as we read His Word and apply His Word to our lives! What a comfort that should be to us!

VERSE 5

1. As we are walking in the fear of the Lord, as we are obedient to His commandments, then the blessings that God has bestowed upon us we share with others. And please keep in mind that this is not just speaking of money, it speaks of our time, our talents that we share with others, we bless others with and in the end we are blessed as we do! Paul put it like this in Philippians 2:1-4, **“Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.”** May we bless others as we walk in the fear of the Lord and obey His commandments!

VERSE 6

1. As we walk in the fear of the Lord and are obedient to His commandments there is stability in our lives because our feet are firmly planted upon the Rock, Jesus Christ! And how we live out our faith is so important because we can leave a legacy behind. Not to promote us, but to show people how wonderful the Lord is!

You see, where you stand with the Lord will make a difference in life and even in death and the legacy we can leave behind may draw others to the Lord. Let me share this story with you of a Moslem woman whose child had died at 16 years of age and she came to a Christian missionary and asked him this question, “What did you do to our daughter?”

The Missionary was caught off guard and he did not know what to say and just replied back, “We did nothing.” But that was not good enough for this mother and she persisted. She told him, “Oh, yes, you did! She died smiling. Our people do not die like that.” As it turned out, the girl had found Christ and believed on Him only a few months before. What was the difference in this young girl’s life as she died? The fear of death was gone and it was replaced with hope and joy and even in her death she was a witness of what Christ can do!

Then there was the famous Dwight Moody and Mr. Moody awoke from his sleep shortly before he died and this is what he said, “Earth recedes. Heaven opens before me. If this is death, it is sweet! There is no valley here. God is calling me, and I must go.” In the room with Mr. Moody was his son who said to him, “No, no, Father. You’re dreaming.”

And Mr. Moody replied back to his son, “I am not dreaming. I have been within the gates. This is my triumph; this is my coronation day! It is glorious!” Do you see the perspective we should have in life and death? The sting of death has been removed by Jesus and we need to leave behind words that will encourage believers and draw unbelievers to Jesus, our hope!

And lastly, listen to these words of a Christian and how even in death he knew the outcome of where he was going. Did he leave a legacy behind? You tell me as you listen to what he said. We are told:

As a third-century man was anticipating death, he penned these last words to a friend: “It’s a bad world, an incredibly bad world. But I have discovered in the midst of it a quiet and holy people who have learned a great secret. They have found a joy which is a thousand times better than any pleasure of our sinful life. They are despised and persecuted, but they care not. They are masters of their souls. They have overcome the world. These people are the Christians – and I am one of them.”

- Moody Bible Institute’s, Today in the Word, June, 1988, p. 18

We tend to think that in life we can only affect people and that is not true. Even in death, what we have believed in will live on if we leave those things behind, if we leave heavenly treasures instead of earthly ones!

And so, as we walk in the fear of the Lord, as we are obedient to His commandments, we can have stability in our lives now and in the life to come, we can leave behind a legacy of who God is!

VERSE 7

1. As we walk in the fear of the Lord and are obedient to His commandments, we do not have to fear what will come upon us in this life! There truly is a freedom from fear! How can that happen? Because we are trusting in the Lord, we are steadfast in the Lord and thus, nothing is going to move us. I like the way that John put it in I John 4:18, **“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.”**

As we understand God’s love for us we need not fear. If we do become fearful of life we are saying that we are not trusting in the Lord and we are being tormented. Now we all struggle with this because we want to be in control, we want to know what is going to happen and the Lord is saying, **“Be still, and know that I am God . . .”** Psalm 46:10.

VERSES 8-9

1. As we walk in the fear of the Lord, as we are obedient to His commandments we will be made strong in the Lord and our life will reflect that relationship that we have with Him! God will take care of us, He is watching over us and He will take care of our needs. We need not fear, the enemy may try to bring us down but the Lord will lift us up if we will walk in the fear of the Lord and be obedient to His commandments!

VERSE 10

1. As we walk in the fear of the Lord, as we are obedient to His commandments the wicked will see us and we will drive them crazy. They will see the peace, the comfort, the joy we have and they are missing out on it. They may strive to have it but apart from Christ they will never attain it. And hopefully it draws them to Jesus.

Now in the Psalm we have been mostly talking about those that are walking in the fear of the Lord and are obedient to His commandments and not the wicked. But the conclusion we see here is that the wicked will miss out, everything that they desired will come to nothing. But for those that are walking in the fear of the Lord, those that are obedient to His commandments, God will bless! And I know that I have repeated that phrase a lot but it is important. You see, as we do there are blessings that are attached to it. Don't miss out, walk in the fear of the Lord and be obedient to His commandments!

It is as Psalm 1:1-3 says, **“Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.”** May we walk accordingly because truly, the fear of the Lord will chase away all other fears!

PSALM 113

As you read Psalm 113 you can't help but see how the Psalmist is so overwhelmed by God that he is just breaking forth with praise unto the Lord! It truly is a shout of joy that is coming from a man who knows God and he can't hold back any longer, he just has to praise the Lord!

Also, keep in mind that Psalms 113 through Psalms 118 are called "Hallel Psalms" or "Halal Psalms", which are Psalms of praise unto the Lord. These six Psalms were sung during the three major feasts of Israel. They were sung at Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. So let's dig into this Psalm of praise and see what we can glean from it!

VERSES 1-3

1. This may sound strange to you but hear me out on this. If you want that joy in your life, if you are tired of being downcast, then praise the Lord! "Pastor Joe, how in the world is that going to help me?" Because it will take your focus off yourself and you will now be focused on the One who can help, the **LORD!** I truly believe that if we were to saturate ourselves with praise unto the **LORD** that joy would fill our lives! For myself, I know I don't praise the Lord as I should. We are to fill our day with praise unto Him, that is what the Psalmist is saying. And think of this, the Bible tells us that ***God inhabits the praises of His people!*** (Psalm22:3). He is worthy of our praise, thus, "**Praise the LORD!**"

VERSES 4-6

1. Now you may lose sight of who God is because of the circumstances you are in and thus, you are having a hard time praising Him. But the Psalmist is going to put things into perspective for you, for me by telling us that God is so high and lifted up that He has to stoop down in order to look into heaven!

Make no mistake about it; our God is so vast that His presence fills the universe! Now to put that into perspective for us, our universe is estimated to be somewhere between 12 to 15 billion light years across. It is vast beyond belief. And yet the Bible says that God measures it with the span of His hand! He fills the universe and yet He can make Himself small enough to live inside our hearts. That is the God we serve, so vast, and yet so compassionate, so caring about His creation. And we will see that as we read on!

VERSES 7-9

1. We just saw how big God is, how vast God is and yet, He is so concerned about every detail of our life. He wants us to come before Him with our concerns, our pain so that He may comfort us. That is our God!

Let me sum this Psalm up like this and as I do, guess what you will do? You will praise the Lord for who He is and what He has done in your life! Look at this application:

I was *poor*, but through faith in Christ I have become fantastically wealthy in spiritual things.

I was *needy*, but the Lord Jesus took this beggar from the dunghill and gave him wonderful Christian brothers and sisters, a fellowship that beats anything the world has to offer.

I was *barren*, with no fruit in my life for God. But He has delivered me from empty, wasteful existence to meaningful, productive life.

No wonder I sing with the psalmist: **Praise the LORD!**

- William MacDonald, Believer's Bible Commentary, p. 728

PSALM 114

Psalm 114 is another of the Hallel Psalms and this one focuses on the Jewish people being delivered from Egypt and entering into the Promise Land!

VERSES 1-2

1. Here the Psalmist is looking at the power of God that has been displayed towards Israel. They were delivered from their bondage in Egypt, which was no small task for any people, to be freed from their slavery. Their captors were powerful and yet God brought them through.
2. The Psalmist speaks of Judah being the Lord's sanctuary, what does that mean? I think it is speaking of the Temple being built within the territory of the tribe of Judah. And keep in mind that "Judah" means "praise." And as we have seen, God inhabits the praises of His people!

Also, it speaks of Israel being His dominion and I think the Psalmist is speaking of the land of Israel, the land that God had given to them. Also, keep in mind that “Israel” means “governed by God” and that was the intention of God’s people, to be governed by Him in the land that He provided for them!

3. Both Judah and Israel are speaking of geographical areas, real places but I also see this speaking in a spiritual sense. You see, we are the Temple of God and God indwells us. Thus, from this Temple of ours, praise should come forth, the praise of God!

Also, this land or body that God has given to us is His and we are to be governed by Him, directed by Him! Very simple and yet very appropriate!

VERSES 3-6

1. Here we see the Psalmist moving from their departure from Egypt as God brought them through the Red Sea, allowing them to cross through on dry ground and then bringing those waters down upon the Pharaoh and the Egyptian soldiers, killing them all! Then, some 40 years later, the Jordan River parted for them to cross through and enter the land of Canaan, the Promise Land! God would do whatever was necessary to deliver His people and He has done the same for us. He has done what was necessary to deliver us from the power of sin, to cleanse us as white as snow and all this is accomplished through the shed blood of Christ and appropriating that free gift into our lives!

VERSES 7-8

1. As you may remember from our study in the book of Exodus and their wilderness wanderings, God provided life sustaining water for them to drink that flowed out of the Rock. What is interesting to me is that in I Corinthians 10:4 Paul tells us that this Rock that followed the children of Israel in the desert, this Rock that provided life sustaining waters for them, was Christ, it represented Him! God has and will continue to provide that life-sustaining water that is only found in Him, all we need to do is speak to Him!

2. Now as you read through this Psalm, as we have done, you can see that the Psalmist is just speaking of God's power, His majesty! He does as He pleases and thus, all creation is subject to His will! That should bring us great comfort no matter what we are going through in life, He is in control!

PSALM 115

Psalm 115 is another of the Hallel Psalms and this one focuses on the idea that we need to trust in the Lord and not to place our trust in worthless idols, worthless things. An important lesson for us!

VERSES 1-2

1. The focus today is giving praise, glory to man. Man loves to pour glory upon himself. Look at professional sports and how these athletes conduct themselves, all trying to bring attention, glory, upon themselves. And it is not limited to professional sports; man in general has a problem with this. And yet God said very clearly in Isaiah 42:8, “**I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.**” To God alone belongs the glory and the praise!

2. Now here is a problem. We are in a tough situation and we pray for God to deliver us and it just does not happen the way we think. And we wonder why. Those that know we are Christians see what happened, how bad things are and say, “**Where now is their God?**”

“God, you blew Your chance to show yourself strong to these people. What has happened Lord? What are You doing?” Make no mistake about it; the unsaved will come against us when we go through difficult times. They can’t see God through it all but we should be able too! You see, what if God wants to show Himself strong through you, how you handle the situation that you are in. You see, your faith will shine more brightly during the darkest of times and that gives the unsaved a chance to see the Lord, the One you say you trust! Don’t let the unsaved discourage you. Don’t let the situation discourage you. Trust in the Lord, walk by faith and bring Him the glory that is due His holy name!

VERSES 3-8

1. Yes, the unsaved may say things like, “**Where now is their God?**” but that does not change the fact that He is in control. Like the Psalmist says, “**He does whatever He pleases.**” God is not done with us, He is still molding and shaping us, and these trials are working in us. The unsaved can’t see it, and we may lose sight of that fact from time-to-time, but God’s Word comforts our hearts and shows us these truths. And it may be through the things we face in life that the unsaved are drawn to God through them, how we handle them, who we are looking to, the One who is to be the strength of our life!
2. Now people may not like this but it is a reality. We were created to worship God and if we refuse we will worship someone or something. Even those who say they are atheists worship a god; it is called the god of self! But all will worship someone or something, may it be the Lord!
3. As people look to fill that void in their lives, if they reject the love of the truth, if they reject Jesus then they will fill that void with all kinds of spiritual things that are not of God! Now again, some would disagree with me but even for those that say they don’t worship a god or idols, then at the very least they still worship a concept, and it is really no different than the god’s that once were worshipped. We may worship the concept of pleasure, the god Molech. We may worship the concept of riches, the god Mammon. We may worship the concept of intellect, the god Baal. And God is saying that if you do worship these things, if you worship idols, then you are a fool. They can’t do anything because they are not real, but He is!

4. The interesting thing here is the Psalmist is saying that we are becoming like the god we worship. If you worship the true and living God, then His character will flow from your life. If you worship idols, you become deaf, dumb and blind, just as they are. Instead of evolving into the image of God, you are de-evolving into the god of your own imagination. You will be like the idols you worship, hopeless and helpless! Thus, don't trust in these worthless idols, these false god's, trust in the true and living God!

5. In Isaiah 44:9-17 we see the foolishness of carved images, these idols and yet people still worship them today. We are told, **“Those who make an image, all of them are useless, And their precious things shall not profit; They are their own witnesses; They neither see nor know, that they may be ashamed. Who would form a god or mold an image That profits him nothing? Surely all his companions would be ashamed; And the workmen, they are mere men. Let them all be gathered together, Let them stand up; Yet they shall fear, They shall be ashamed together. The blacksmith with the tongs works one in the coals, Fashions it with hammers, And works it with the strength of his arms. Even so, he is hungry, and his strength fails; He drinks no water and is faint. The craftsman stretches out his rule, He marks one out with chalk; He fashions it with a plane, He marks it out with the compass, And makes it like the figure of a man, According to the beauty of a man, that it may remain in the house. He cuts down cedars for himself, And takes the cypress and the oak; He secures it for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants a pine, and the rain nourishes it. Then it shall be for a man to burn, For he will take some of it and warm himself; Yes, he kindles it and bakes bread; Indeed he makes a god and**

worships it; He makes it a carved image, and falls down to it. He burns half of it in the fire; With this half he eats meat; He roasts a roast, and is satisfied. He even warms himself and says, ‘Ah! I am warm, I have seen the fire.’ And the rest of it he makes into a god, His carved image. He falls down before it and worships it, Prays to it and says, ‘Deliver me, for you are my god!’”

Let me ask you this question. Do you carry your god or does your God carry you? I am so thankful that I don't have to carry my god around because he is unable to do it on his own. My God is the One who carries me around and that takes all the burden off of me and places it upon the One that can handle it, my God!

VERSES 9-11

1. “What should we do? The enemy is big. They make all kinds of noise. There is so much trouble in my life I don't know where to turn. What should I do?” The Psalmist tells us here, **“trust in the LORD.”** In these three verses the Psalmist tells us to trust in the **LORD** three times. Why do you think he does that? Because he wants us to trust in the Lord because there is no one else or nothing else that will be able to deliver you from the situations you are in. He is our help, He is our shield and he tells us that fact three times also. May we **“trust in the LORD.”**

VERSES 12-15

1. What does God want to do for us? He wants to bless us and the Psalmist reminds us of this very fact some five times here! Our responsibility is that we are to walk in the fear of the Lord and be obedient to His commandments. If we do we will not try to increase our own things, do things our way but we will walk by faith trusting in the Lord and let Him bring the increase in our lives!

VERSES 16-18

1. God created the heavens and the earth, and to man He gave dominion of this earth, to care for it, to tend it. But when man rebelled against God, when Adam and Eve sinned, they turned the title deed of the earth over to Satan. Paul calls Satan the “**god of this age**” in II Corinthians 4:4. If you still doubt that Satan had the title deed to the earth, then study his temptation of Christ in Luke chapter 4. Satan offers Jesus all the kingdoms of the world if He would worship him. If Satan didn't own them, it would be an empty offer. And Jesus never says that, He only tells Satan, “**. . . Get behind Me, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'**”
Luke 4:8.

On the cross of Calvary Jesus purchased back the title deed of the earth from Satan, He purchased it or redeemed it back with His life. He is our Kinsmen Redeemer and one day Jesus is going to come back and take possession of that which He has already purchased. We see this event of Jesus coming to take possession of the earth, at least the process in Revelation chapter 5. Here we see Jesus take the scroll, the title deed back, and pours out His judgment upon a Christ rejecting world, and the Tribulation Period begins. And what is born out of the Tribulation Period is the Kingdom Age where Jesus Christ will establish His Kingdom and rule and reign forever! That which was given to Satan because of the sin of Adam is now redeemed back by Christ and He is coming back soon to take possession!

2. Now for some, they will use verses like this in Psalm 115:17 to speak of soul sleep or that you cease to exist when you die. Even Job struggled with this issue thinking that life was over once you died. And yet he spoke of resurrection life, that when his body goes back to the dust of the earth, yet he will see his God. So there was some confusion regarding death and what happens. Please understand that God's Word is a progressive revelation so that by the time we get to the New Testament we have a clearer understanding of these things. Paul, said this in II Corinthians 5:8, "**We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.**"

In other words, there is no soul sleep, no annihilation. In fact, God does rebuke Job for his misconception about death in Job 38. And God basically asks Job if he really understands what death is all about, since he has never experienced it. Job spoke out of human wisdom and he was wrong. In death we will either go to be with the Lord or we will be eternally separated from Him, and we are fully conscious of where we are and what we are experiencing.

3. As the Psalmist concludes he is telling us that now it is time to praise the Lord. In other words, don't put it off, begin today, this very moment, and continue praising Him forevermore! It is as the Psalmist concluded, "**But we will bless the Lord From this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord!**" May we do that!

PSALM 116

Psalm 116 is another of the Hallel Psalms and this one focuses on our thanksgiving to God for His delivering the Psalmist from a deadly sickness! Because of that many of the Jewish commentators believe this was a Psalm that was written by Hezekiah. In II Kings chapter 20 we see that Isaiah told King Hezekiah to get his house in order because he was going to die. But he did not want to, not yet and cried out to the Lord and the Lord gave him 15 more years of life. And Hezekiah did recover from his illness but those 15 added years were not good, it was not God's perfect will. So keep that in mind, this may have been written by Hezekiah as God delivered him from this deadly disease and added 15 more years to his life!

VERSES 1-2

1. The Psalmist is saying that he loves the Lord because the Lord heard his cry and his prayer. He loved the Lord based on His experience with the Lord. And because God heard His cry, it encouraged Him to continue to call upon His name because the God he worships not only hears his hearts cry, but He answers them!
2. As we move into verse 3 we are going to see the reason why the Psalmist is crying out to God.

VERSE 3

1. The reason he is crying out to God is because he is very sick. In fact He was near death. Sheol, Hades in the New Testament, speaks of the grave. It was the place where both the saved and unsaved went when they died. The saved went to an area known as Abraham's bosom, paradise, until the Messiah came. Jesus preached to those in Abraham's bosom those 3 days and 3 nights He was in the belly of the earth. And when Jesus rose from the grave, all those in Abraham's bosom went to be with the Lord. Since that time, the place known as Abraham's bosom is empty, for all who die in Christ go to be with Him immediately. The other area in Sheol is for the unsaved, which continues to be filled today. And they will be punished there until the great white throne judgment and then they will enter their final abode, the Lake of Fire, where they will be tormented day and night for eternity!

VERSES 4-7

1. The Psalmist cries out to God and he is healed. That causes him to relax, he is no longer anxious. Now as difficult as this may sound, we don't need to fear. "How can you say that Pastor Joe?" Remember what we read in Psalm 112 this evening! And the Psalmist tells us here that we are to bring everything before God, and *TRUST* that He will do what is best. Don't wait for His salvation to come before you rest, but just pray about it, and rest in the fact that He has heard your prayer and will answer it accordingly. Fear, anxiousness does not help anyone but you can lose a lot of sleep over. It is much better to give it to the Lord!

VERSES 8-11

1. As God brings healing to the Psalmist he is strengthened by it! He is encouraged by it. That is why we pray, for as God answers those prayers it strengthens our faith.

2. Now here in verse 10 it may be a little hard to understand what he is saying. It may be a little clumsy in its translation. In The Amplified Bible I think it clears it up for us. We are told, "**I believed (trusted, relied on, and clung to my God), and therefore I have spoken [even when I said], I am greatly afflicted.**" The implication seems to be that even when he was greatly afflicted, he trusted in the Lord to deliver him from his distress.

3. There are those times we speak in haste especially against those that come against us.

And that may be what we see here in verse 11 when he said, “**All men are liars.**”

Obviously that is not true, not everyone who speaks to you is lying. I guess in a general sense it is true because we all sin, but in a practical sense, I think he is exaggerating!

Maybe they were speaking like Job’s comforters, whom Job called, “**Miserable comforters are you all!**” Job 16:2. And maybe the Psalmist was tired and he became bitter over what they were saying. And thus, in his haste he lashed out at them. Be careful what you say in haste. We must remember we are representatives of God! And once it is out there it is hard to take it back!

VERSES 12-14

1. The Psalmist wants to show his thanks by giving back to the Lord. He wants our praise, for He owns everything else. He doesn’t need our praise but we get to praise the Lord for all that He has done for us!

2. Now this is important. Before we can give anything to the Lord which He will accept, we must drink of the cup of salvation, or be saved. If we are not His, then all the good works we do are meaningless. But once we come to Him and receive the salvation that He has for us, then it is out of that salvation that we praise Him openly for all to see, we rejoice in the God of our salvation!

VERSE 15

1. We see death as tragic, but God sees it as precious, why? Because for those that are His, death is only passing from this body, this tent, into a mansion or an eternal body where there will be no more pain, no more suffering, no more death. Yes, when God created the heavens and the earth there was no death, everything was good until sin entered this world through Adam. And now we see the affects of that sin with death and destruction all around us. But the Lord is coming back to restore this world to the place it was like when He created it! We long for that day but until He returns, we see death all around us.

And for those that have been martyred for their faith, and keep in mind that we see more in our day than at any other time in church history and it will only get worse and more global, these dear saints are precious to the Lord because they gave their life for the One they loved!

VERSES 16-19

1. We need to be careful with vows that we make to the Lord. Many times they put us in bondage and something we once did out of love we are now doing out of constraint. But, if you make a vow to the Lord, then you need to keep it. What is the vow that the Psalmist has offered to the Lord? It is praise and thus he ends by saying, “**Praise the LORD!**” May we have that kind of heart that brings our requests to the Lord, trusts in what He will do, rests in Him and praises Him for all He has done, is doing and will do in our lives!

PSALM 117

Psalm 117 is another of the Hallel Psalms and this one focuses on our praise to God for His loyal love and faithfulness that He has extended to us. It is also the shortest Psalm in the book of Psalms and the shortest chapter in the entire Bible.

VERSE 1

1. The first “**praise**” in this verse is from the Hebrew word HALAL,(haw-lal’) and it speaks of being bright, to shine. Our praise should shine brightly; we shouldn’t hide our praise of God or be ashamed of it.

Now the second “**praise**” we see in this verse is from the Hebrew word SHABACH, (shaw-bakh’) and this speaks of addressing in a loud tone, to be loud. We should adore the Lord not with a whisper, but to shout aloud to the Lord, sing a joyful song unto Him. Let your voice be heard, and praise Him openly.

Isn’t it time for us to praise the Lord, to shine brightly for Him, to shout joyful unto Him? Of course it is! Look at a football game; you have 60,000 or 70,000 people at a game shouting and screaming for their team. They are dressed up like pigs in dresses in Washington D. C. for the Redskins game; I don’t get that one, but they shine. Not in a good way, it may not be pretty, but they do shine! And yet, when it comes to our faith, we are silent, we are dull. May it not be! In this world that is in darkness, may we shine forth! In this world that is asleep, may we shout forth the praises unto God!

VERSE 2

1. Now the reason we praise the Lord is because of His great love that He extends towards us, His rich mercy. Sometimes we make things so complicated, such a production, that we take God right out of it. Keep it simple and keep your praise focused upward, unto God, and not upon ourselves.

This Hebrew word that is translated “**merciful kindness**” is equivalent to the New Testament word, “**grace.**” I like that. The reason I like that is because we see here in this verse grace and truth. In John 1:17 we are told, “**For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.**”

Keep in mind that the Law was rigid, it was unmovable, and the Law could never save a person, it only showed us that we were sinners separated from God, it pointed us to a Savior, the Law pointed us to Jesus! Thus, Jesus extends to us His inexhaustible grace as we come to Him.

Paul makes this point in Galatians 3:23-26 where he says, “**But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. Sons and Heirs For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.**”

And if you think the law can truly save you, think about this verse in Galatians 2:21, “**I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, then Christ died in vain.**” And if you really want to live by the Law you will die by the Law, as James 2:10 tells us, “**For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.**” Praise the Lord for God’s grace or we would all be in trouble!

And we can rest in the fact that what Jesus says is truth. Thus, when He speaks to us through His Word we need to listen and obey. “But why Pastor Joe?” Because, as I have said so many times this evening, we are to walk in the fear of the Lord being obedient to His commandments and as we do we will find great blessings! “**Praise the LORD!**”