

Psalm 62

Sometimes the hardest thing to do is to sit still; and listen to God. We become anxious when we start down the road of thinking that we are controlling things. We have things to do; and our mind is full of distractions and nagging chores to attend to. How can we just relax; and listen to God? Our fleshly nature is full of unrest. It is not geared to wait for information. On top of that; we find other pursuits. This is an alluring and imaginary trap. Our desires form an image in our imagination. That image is unattainable. It is like chasing crickets at night. You hear them over there...and then when you get there...they are chirping back where you were before.

The most-peaceful and enduring state is when we are quiet and attending to the moving of the Holy Spirit. That is our medicine and our strength. The problem is that our flesh is uneasy with holy things. Spiritual things are strange and uncomfortable to our natural self. We get antsy; and we cut it short. Prayer and meditating on the word of God are an acquired taste. That means that our spiritual appetite has to be built up to overcome our fleshly self. The inner spiritual man inside of us needs to be built up. Part of that spiritual nurturing is prayer. It is not something to rush. What is prayer? Do mind-numbing unthinking repetitive requests count? No.

And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 “Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him. 9 In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. 10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. 13 And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. [d]For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. 14 “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. (Matthew 6:7-14)

We can become estranged from God and his fellowship; as we look around us; and begin to get anxious. There is much to get anxious about. The verses above tell us that our cherished things are magnets for rust, moths and thieves. We try to hang onto things that cannot be held. We accordingly then minimize our quiet time to attend to our *treasured things*. It is like a soldier in a hurry, who runs out the door, without putting on his armor. It will not end well.

Read Psalm 62:1-2: We talk about waiting on the LORD; especially when we need something. From Genesis through Revelation, our problem has been that we have not waited on God. Eve ventured off; and experimented with things that God was protecting us from. Adam got tied up with his work; which diminished his time with God. It is a deep weakness that we all have. God has to close down our roads forward; just to get us back to the place where we are willing to ask him for directions. We are all sprinting towards an unseen waterfall. God is trying to get us to take an inventory of our blessings; and sit still. He holds our health and well-being. We lose all of that as we fly around; and diminish our time with him.

The entire Old Testament is about problems that occur when we abandon God. We have countless national problems today; because God is absent in our national agenda. The solution to all of these things is simple. If we are with God; then he does not need to allow all of this evil to redirect us. Our constant expeditions into questionable pursuits make it hard for God to have an audience with us.

“Therefore, behold, I will hedge up your way with thorns, And [e]wall her in, So that she cannot find her paths. 7 She will [f]chase her lovers, But not overtake them; Yes, she will seek them, but not find them. (Hosea 2:6-7)

Am I truly waiting on the LORD? Am I like a special-needs child who cannot focus?

- Is it likely that I will act without hearing from God on the issue?
- Does the situation require that I stop and listen?
- Will I open God’s word, to look for answers?
- Do I feel the need to pray about it?
- How do my talents, opportunities, and desire weigh into the equation?

We talk about God being our rock and our defense. Is he? Is my heart moving all over the place in unrest? If so; then I am not resting adequately in the LORD.

- Have I concluded that my other options won’t deliver me?
- The Old Testament is largely about killing our idols. Am I in harm’s way; because of the things I trust and put my hope in?

For me; it has been a season of resistance. There is progress amidst the contrary forces. God has shown me that the setbacks are not random or unfair. He is calling me to sit still

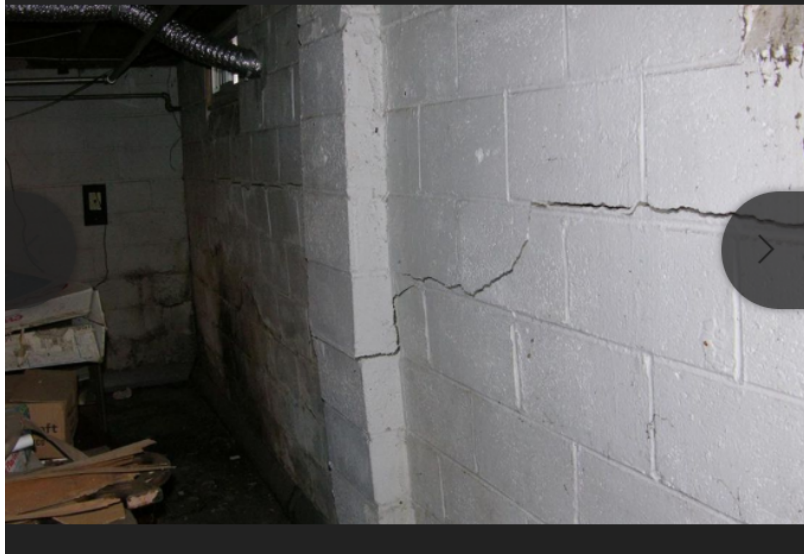
with him; and not marginalize my quiet time before him. He is also teaching me to have more poise amidst setbacks. They will all clear up. Peace has been a fleeting thing amidst my ongoing daily concerns. The bottom line is that there is no other peace out there; without Jesus. If I take Jesus with me; the circumstances are irrelevant. I let him drive the bus yesterday. I woke up trying to drive again. My emotions betray my self confidence.

We have vulnerabilities and shortfalls. God wants to be our overcomer. We need to slow down, and take his hand. Unfortunately, we tend to grab quick, alternate solutions. We don't wait on him. Judah and the northern 10 tribes kept turning to outsiders for deliverance. That is what brought on more trouble every time. Egypt is synonymous with the world. Judah turned to Egypt (the world) for help. That only weekend them further.

*And I will take the remnant of Judah who have set their faces to go into the land of Egypt to dwell there, and they shall all be consumed and fall in the land of Egypt. They shall be consumed by the sword and by famine. They shall die, from the least to the greatest, by the sword and by famine; and they shall be an oath, an astonishment, a curse and a reproach! **13** For I will punish those who dwell in the land of Egypt, as I have punished Jerusalem, by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence, **14** so that none of the remnant of Judah who have gone into the land of Egypt to dwell there shall escape or survive, lest they return to the land of Judah, to which they desire[e] to return and dwell. For none shall return except those who escape.' ” (Jeremiah 44:12-14)*

Read Psalm 62:3-4: God has set boundaries and limitations on all of man's creations. Man made things are imperfect. They can have far-reaching consequences. We are inconsiderate when we build empires for ourselves. We get hurt; and so do others. One classic thing that man has built from his earliest cities are walls. Walls demonstrate man's nature to take and attack from each other. Otherwise walls would not be needed. Takers would otherwise help themselves. Prideful men have no filters or boundaries. Man will not control himself. Courts, law enforcement and walls were added.

The bible speaks about the danger of a bowing wall. Today, we have laws about securing brick or block walls over 8' tall if they are unsupported. That is because they are dangerous; and they have a long history of killing people. Walls are a picture of the things that we put in place to separate ourselves. Malicious contempt for our neighbors is compared to a bowing wall. A lot of unsuspecting people can be hurt or killed.



Instead of taking advantage or retreating into isolation, we are to fulfill the purpose of a wall to our neighbor. We are to protect them. We are to assess their vulnerabilities and pray for them and help them. Gaps in the wall can represent unprotected areas of our lives. The purpose of the Law of Moses is to help our neighbor (even if it is unsolicited).

So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one. (Ezekiel 22:30)

Walls can have a good purpose as well. We need controls and filters individually; just like our community needs these protections. Our eyes and ears are gates to our mind. Have we left them open to allow garbage to accumulate in our mind? To be a wall to another; we must be solid ourselves.

...you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 2:5)

Read Psalm 62:5-8: It seems like saying that we should trust in God at all times is overused cliché. Perhaps not. Despite years of biblical training; I still worry every day about things I cannot control. It can become a fruitless obsession. I need to go back to Genesis 1; and remind myself that God has set boundaries and purposes for all things. I tend to commandeer things that I am trying to steer. Somehow, my coordinated events fail to obey my will. I may feel that I have created a work schedule; but those people who are part of it have their own differing views of the situation. There are miscalculations, communication gaps, schedule conflicts, gaps in design details, availability issues, differing priorities, etc... My small creations won't obey me like I wish they would. In fact; my assets and my creations begin to master me; and dictate how I will spend my thoughts and days. So I wrestle with other men and with my mind as to how to force or manipulate them into my hope and expectations.

It is not irresponsible to take a step back; and force God to the top of my attention. God may want us to say 'uncle'. "*Help me God*". He wants to steer our ship. He will let us grab the wheel back again if we have forgotten how regrettable that outcome will be. Our desire to be the masters of our own destiny is in conflict with God, who is wanting to take our hand like a lost child.

Read Psalm 62:9-10: The bible describes our lives as a vapor. It is not really anything that can be tracked or traced. It just occurs as temperatures around us change. Then it is gone forever.

As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. 16 For the wind passes over it, and it is [b]gone, And its place remembers it no more. 17 But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, 18 To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them. (Psalm 103:15-18)

Am I chasing things that can't ever be exactly as I imagine? We form imaginary scenarios; while ignoring what God has said. Am I neglecting things that I can do, that will remain?

Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. 4 But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, 5 "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for [b]three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" 6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. 7 But Jesus said, "Let her alone; [c]she has kept this for the day of My burial. 8 For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." (John 12:3-8)

This world has a continuous track playing. It is calling us to chase a concept of ourselves. It causes us to set down what is healthy; and walk towards the image in our imagination. It is never quite attainable. Drug dealers who want to get rich through violence become targets for other drug dealers. Business tycoons who steamroll and manipulate for gain become manipulated themselves. Celebrities and wealthy people are some of the most unhappy people. Our expectations are never met. Satan is a master at picking our pockets. Wholesome living and holiness are ridiculed for a reason. Satan is lowering our valuation of our true holdings, to prepare us for his trades.

Read Psalm 62:11-12: Peace is found in simple obedience to God; and love for our neighbor. We will reap what we sow.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the [a]earth. 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. 7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy. 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God. 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God. 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 5:3-10)