

Psalm 92

Read Psalm 92:1-3: It is fitting to thank God and express our appreciation. Music can take us to a higher emotional experience than mere words, at times. Our innermost being knows what is truth. We are very blessed. The logical outflow of having received blessings is to acknowledge them and share them with others. Sharing is not natural. Thanking God and helping people is therapeutic to us. It is humbling and is a form of resetting our compass.

See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all. Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. (1 Thessalonians 5:15-19)

We need to break down the effects of this world on our soul. This world tells us that north is south. The entirety of media and human engineering challenges God's word in one way or another. That is why faith and Holy Spirit empowerment is required to go against the tide. The scriptures describe us as clay that is being formed into useful pottery. We tend to continuously harden, and take on the form of our outside influences. As this happens, we become less flexible, and we resist change. God gives us two choices; bend or break.

We are naturally self-centered; and we hold onto our own views. We don't necessarily attribute all that is in front of us to God. We learn to trust ourselves instead. This is because we see that others are not completely trustworthy. God is ultimately behind all of the causes and effects that we think that we see. For that reason, we are told to thank God for what he has given us. The Bible tells us to consider a lot of things that we might normally take for granted. We are also told to give back to the LORD. That breaks the chain of the desire to accumulate and insulate ourselves. We are told to put others' needs ahead of our own. That breaks the chain of *putting #1 first*; and the *dog eat dog* thought process. We are living in a world of people who are putting their interests above others. This world and the unseen demonic influences will turn an optimist into a pessimist.

"Vanity[a] of vanities," says the Preacher; "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." What profit has a man from all his labor In which he toils under the sun? (Ecclesiastes 1:2-3)

There are dual truths. There is this broken world. and there is God's kingdom of love. The scriptures teach us to live above our circumstances by placing our hope in God; rather than our own things. Keeping that heavenly mindset is difficult; and it requires continuous cultivation.

Think about it. How old does a child need to be before they fully appreciate their parents. Through junior high and high school they see a lot of our faults; and we frustrated them. As they get jobs and families they gradually become more sympathetic to our past decisions. They see it is not as cut and dried and one-dimensional as we thought.

Read Psalm 92:4-5: The things that God is doing brings us joy. We may not be tuned into these blessings at all. Our back may be towards God; if we are looking at our own situation. In addition, God hides behind common everyday circumstances.

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, (Proverbs 25:2)

We have a great capacity to overlook all that is going well. We are called here to praise God for our blessings; which requires that we take an inventory of blessings every day. Without a conscious recollection it all gets dismissed into a fading memory.

To focus on God brings us back to peace and serenity. It is hard for us to remain focused on God. We typically don't seek help until we feel that we need it.

We know that we cannot serve two masters. That is partially because we cannot focus on two things at once. There is a reason that the LORD's prayer begins with us focused on God; and commenting on what he is doing. If we start out praying for our grocery list; we probably won't get back to God's glory. We get consumed by ourselves. That is a recipe for depression and anxiety.

Read Psalm 92:6-7: Those who live apart from God, have a dulled sense of *cause and effect*. How could people embrace alien theories or evolution or the big bang theory with zero evidence? It takes more faith to believe those things than in God. God is the source of wisdom and all blessing. To abandon God is to abandon wisdom, and the awareness of where good things come from. They have chosen to ignore God's voice; and their conscience.

'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' "Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see

with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed.” (Isaiah 6:9-10)

The bible describes men’s lives like grass and flowers. It pops up quickly; and then it runs its short lifespan; and turns back into organic matter and is forgotten. Youth is referred to as a *flower (peak in physical condition and beauty)*.

All flesh is as grass, And all [n]the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, But the [o]word of the Lord endures forever.” (1 Peter 1:24-25)

The insurance industry refers to young men under the age of 40 as having the *superman syndrome*. They do not think there is any reason to be concerned about mortality and future events. Things are expected to continue as they have been. That is why they are not good prospects for buying insurance.

Being selfish and narrow minded seems like it could be a private thing; but actually it is a violation of what God has said. In fact, the Satanic Bible does not say to worship Satan as much as it says to do your own thing. It is the same result. We are placed here to be agents of change and love. We are to help each other as we honor God. We can chase the perishing treasures or the eternal treasures. Somehow we get onto our own agenda; and God’s plan seems like an option. Don’t mistake freedom for destiny.

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. (Matthew 6:19-20)

We see other people who have things that we want for ourselves. That comfort they receive from their things will fade over time. The guy in a cardboard shack might have more peace of mind than the guy with vast holdings. For some reason we do not desire their burdens or connected responsibilities that go with it. Being blessed is not based on a number; it is a state of being. God gives us the ability to enjoy his blessings (no matter how large or small).

As for every man to whom God has given riches and wealth, and given him power to eat of it, to receive his [e]heritance and rejoice in his labor—this is the gift of God. (Ecclesiastes 5:19)

Being satisfied with what we have requires that we are able to see what we have.

Business can prevent us from enjoying anything that we have. We seem to only see what we do not have. All we have in the physical world is *today*. Everything else is too slippery to hold for long. God has given us the ability to enjoy this moment; because that is all that is promised. Our life is described as a vapor (*a passing early morning mist*). The most peaceful, spirit filled moments are filled with appreciation of what we are surrounded by. If you are not in the spirit, the blessings may be around you...but you will not see them. The holy angels can surely see them.

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!” (Isaiah 6:3)

There are reasons that God has allowed us to be surrounded by temptations. We just see the clothes; but others see us. We also have a contrary force that pulls us backwards from trusting God. This world is full of evil tidings. God is in charge of all things. Any evil that flourishes is through God’s permitting filter and hedge of protection.

Read Psalm 92:8-11: God will give us victory; but not in ourselves. We may have the nerve wracking experience of 10,000 falling at our side. We may feel like undeserving *lone survivors*. We can’t tell who will live and who will die.

It is hard to bless a competent saint. Believers tend to trust in their strengths, and are more likely to pray to shore up their weaknesses. David won a lot of unbeatable battles; but only after consulting God...and waiting on him. Even the unbeatable Joshua lost a couple battles because he forgot to ask God for approval or direction. That is why we are strongest when we are insecure. We pray more.

Now when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard of it and went down to the stronghold. The Philistines also went and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim. So David inquired of the Lord, saying, “Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?” And the Lord said to David, “Go up, for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into your hand.” (2 Samuel 5:17-19)

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; (Psalm 23:4-5)

Beyond all of this; there is a confidence knowing that we are making a stand for what is right. We cannot fight with conviction for a false premise.

Read Psalm 92:12-15: Believers are compared to trees. A tree is rooted in something solid. The ancient faithful Hebrew forefathers (like Abraham) are our examples of faith. They are compared to a cultivated olive tree. The following generations of Jews let all of that go; so they were broken off of the olive tree (like dead branches that get pruned). We are like a lesser tree olive variety (wild olive) that got grafted into the living organism of believers.

And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you. (Romans 11:17-18)

Another type of tree that a believer is compared to is a date palm tree. In Scripture, the palm is always the date palm, stately and beautiful. It has extremely deep tap roots—called a root ball—and thus can flourish even in the desert, growing tall and living long. It is perhaps the most useful of all trees, not only producing dates, but also sugar, wine, honey, oil, resin, rope, thread, tannin, and dyestuff. Its seeds are fed to cattle and its leaves are used for roofs, fences, mats, and baskets. Its fruit is said to get sweeter as the tree grows older, and this is compared to the believer in a beautiful verse: “Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing” (Psalm 92:13,14). Figuratively, we too are to hold our hands up towards the sun of God; like a date palm.

The cedar of Lebanon is the tallest middle-east tree; and oldest-living thing on earth. Some go all the way back to the flood. A big tree grows fairly slow at first. Fruit does not really come in the first year on any kind of fruit tree. The spiritual journey is a steady, sustained long-term thing. You cannot starve a tree and then flood it with water and food. It won't recover. Our quiet time has to be steady and continuous.

