

**Day 36**

Psalm 89
Psalm 90
Psalm 91

Today as you read, seek out characteristics of God and His nature. Also, seek to find the Gospel in each of the Psalms you read. In Psalm 89, notice when it says "Selah." This means to pause and reflect on the significance of what was said. When we take moments to pause, we are able to listen to God as He is revealing truth to us through the Scripture. In Psalm 89, the psalmist begins by proclaiming God's steadfast love and faithfulness. (vs. 1) In Romans 8:31-37, Paul encourages us with the promise of this steadfast love and faithfulness. How does an understanding of this love and faithfulness change the way we live our lives? Verse 4 in Psalm 89 says, "I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations." This is an image of the Gospel because God accomplishes this through Jesus on the cross. Our God is a good Father, an everlasting King Who is faithful, steadfast, and worthy of our praise. In Psalm 90 & 91, we are exhorted to "rejoice and be glad all of our days"(Psalm 90:14) and to "abide in the shadow of the Almighty" (Psalm 91:1). What does it look like for you to abide in Him fully today? Take courage and know that true joy and peace can only come from the Lord. He will establish your steps and reveal His will for your life. There is peace in knowing this promise of His provision. As you walk out your day with Him today, pray for eyes that are focused in on Him and His glory being made known wherever you find yourself because this should be our highest, most zealous pursuit.

Day 37

Psalm 92
Psalm 93
Psalm 94

Why do you sing songs to the Lord? Our reading today says that the worship of God through singing is good. But how do we know that it is good? The answer is simple - our singing to God in worship is good because we know Who God is and we know what He has done and will do, and worship is our response. And because God is good, anything He tells us is good for us to do or participate in will be good for us! Out of that awareness of God, our relationship with Him, and the display He shows of His glory, we must respond. Now, then, while singing songs to God is not our only form of worship (we can worship through service, prayer, meditation, etc), it is one of the many forms of worship through which we can uniquely participate in giving God glory and dedicating to Him our very voice and body in the act of singing and praise. What's amazing about singing to God as well, is that this form of worship is not limited to your worshipping in a large gathering with other believers. In fact, spend some time today identifying a song that is written to glorify God and worship Him on your own.



Day 38

Psalm 95
Psalm 96
Psalm 97

Psalm 96:1 commands us to "Sing to the Lord a new song." We know that this Psalm is a call to worship God and to proclaim His name to all the earth. It is easy to make the connection between singing referenced in verse 1 and worship, but what does it mean for us to sing to the Lord a *new* song? It seems weird as we look at the whole of Psalm 96 that the psalmist starts his song with the command to sing a song to the Lord and ends the song with the lines "Let all creation rejoice before the Lord, for He comes, He comes to judge the earth." How is it the psalmist was able to rejoice in God and the coming judgment before Christ was ever born? Although the psalmist lived before the death and resurrection, they knew a Savior was coming and He would make all things new. In Hebrew, the word "new" is translated *chadash* and refers to something being fresh or renewed. The same word, *new*, used in Psalm 96 is also used in Ezekiel 11:19. "I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh." From the beginning of redemptive history, we can see the injunction to "sing a new song" was intended to point us to Christ. There was a song of anticipation for the coming Savior. Our new song is one of fulfillment as we have been made new by the death and resurrection of Christ. In fulfillment of the promise of Ezekiel 11:19, through faith in Christ we have received the spirit of God and have been given new hearts. Just as we are given the righteousness of Christ, we have also been given newness of life. Every day we have a new song to sing to the Lord because although we have been given the gift of new life, we know that we are growing into the newness given to us until the return of Christ. At His return, in triumphant resolution, all things will be made new and once again, with all the saints and in perfect unison, we will sing a new song saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation." (Rev. 5:9)

**Day 39**

Proverbs 17
Proverbs 18
Proverbs 19
Proverbs 20

This week's selection of Proverbs brings us through a number of wise sayings that are gifted to us from the author. This would be a good time to be reminded of the point of the book of Proverbs. While you can watch an overview of this book here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gab04dPs_uA&t=2s, remember that the book of Proverbs provides only a perspective on wisdom that claims that those who live by pursuing wisdom will see good things happen in life. While this is true, it is not intended to be seen as a complete view of wisdom, as we all know that there are wise people who experience terrible things in life. Furthermore, the book of Proverbs makes the foundational statement that fear of the Lord is what allows us to even see wisdom. Therefore, as we allow our fear of the Lord to lead us into a relationship with Christ, we will see that the Holy Spirit Himself will affirm and reveal much of this wisdom written in Proverbs to us. Therefore, pray and be thankful that God continues to generate wisdom in your life as you grow in knowing and loving your heavenly Father.

Day 40

Psalm 98
Psalm 99
Psalm 100

Many of those reading this devotional have grown or are growing up in a Christian culture that generally focuses our worship and prayer of God through the themes of thanksgiving (thanking God for who He is and what He has done) and personal adoration of Christ (expressing emotions like joy and peace at Who God means to us). As a result, it can be a bit strange to do more than just read over verses 7 and 8 in Psalm 98. However, these verses are important: they invite us to remember that the entire earth and everything in it was created to give God glory. And in every way and mechanism by which the earth moves and operates, by simply existing, it expresses the glory of God. So now, consider: what a wonderful thing it is that all creation, even the atoms in the air you breathe express the magnificence of the God you worship!

**Day 41**

Psalm 101
Psalm 102
Psalm 103

Today's readings highlight the glory of God, the hope for God to display justice, and end with recognizing the good that He brings to us as not just an omnipotent Being, but as a loving heavenly Father who desires to intimately walk with us. However, our culture can tempt us to see God as a distant deity that has set the earth in motion and has created expectations and rules for us that are seemingly impossible to uphold. Unfortunately, this perspective can be rooted quite deeply, for that is how we are informed to approach relationships in our lives. For example, we live in a culture that asks us to abandon relationships when things get challenging rather than doing the work to cultivate those relationships through hardships and turmoil. Therefore, we tend to be tempted to apply that approach to our relationship with God and assume that He would probably just want to abandon us rather than walk with us, especially since we seem to mess things up so frequently. Then, rather than seeking to live in His love, we find ourselves only doing "Christian things" to seek His approval. However, we must see that through the gift of salvation through Christ, we already have His approval. He will always see Christ in us. Take joy in this!

Day 42

Psalm 104
Psalm 105
Psalm 106

Today's readings declare the greatness of God, God's commitment to His promises, and the hope of God's deliverance in spite of rebellion and disobedience. Since God's plan for mankind was to spread His glory across the earth, and He was going to see that plan through by providing the Messiah who would be birthed through the people of Israel, then the Israelites needed not to ever have fear that God would truly completely abandon them as a people. In a way though, this is similar to how we tend to experience God. While we know God has promised salvation to those who believe and enter into a relationship with Jesus, we allow our failures to hold us back from understanding that He will not abandon us or leave us. It is easy for us to become blind to the reality that He has sealed us with His promise and with His Spirit. Rather than walking in confidence that He will continue to help us conquer the sin in our flesh, we find ourselves somehow trapped and condemned by our weaknesses. Spend sometime today identifying one area in which you struggle, and pray with the knowledge that God's salvation is complete and that He will never abandon those who believe in and have trusted Jesus as their Savior.