# Daily In the Word with Pastor K. Cunningham

#### June 13th, 2020

#### THOUGHTS ON THE "QUIET TIME" or "DAILY DEVOTIONS"

"QUIET TIME" (QT), aka "Daily Devotional," describes the spiritual discipline of a daily time set aside for communion with God, listening to Him (His Word) and speaking with Him (Prayer). While the phrase "quiet time" is not found in Scripture, the concept of men communing with God is found repeatedly. Even after the first Adam's sin, we see God continuing to pursue their relationship, calling out to Adam "Where are you?" (Ge 3:9-note) Mark records that "In the early morning, while it was still dark, (Jesus, the "Last Adam" <u>1Cor 15:45-note</u>) arose and went out and departed to a lonely place, and was praying there." (<u>Mk 1:35-note</u>) clearly demonstrating His dependence on and need for communion with His Father (E.g., Jesus declared "I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me." <u>In 8:28-note</u>, Jn 5:19-note, Jn 5:30-note) If Jesus, our Example of the perfect Man (<u>1Pe 2:21-note</u>, <u>1Cor 11:1-note</u>, <u>1Jn 2:6-note</u>) perceived the need to meet with His Father, how much more do we as followers of Jesus need to meet regularly with the Father!

Scripture and church history repeatedly attests to the fact that those used greatly by God were those who met regularly with God. In Ge 19:27-note "Abraham arose early and went to the place where he had stood in the presence of the LORD." In Ex 33:11-note "the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend." The biographer of Dwight L. Moody, one of history's greatest evangelists records that "He was an early riser. He generally rose about daybreak in summer, devoting the early hours to Bible study and communion with God. He used to say that one who followed this plan could not get more than twenty-four hours away from God!" (The Life of D. L. Moody by A P Fitt) One of the greatest British preachers G. Campbell Morgan "was a man who coveted for himself a constant withdrawal from the pressing demands of his busy life and kept inviolate the sanctity of the early morning vigil of prayer and meditation. Here he breathed the atmosphere of heaven and daily recharged his spirit with the power that in turn poured out in extravagant measure in the preaching and proclamation of the Word." (A Man of the Word by Jill Morgan) George Müller of Bristol, the Christian philanthropist who was famous for his orphanages funded by prayer (he never ask men for money, only God!), was having health problems for which doctors prescribed more sleep, but the later he slept, the worse his condition grew! Muller self-diagnosed his problem as less physical and more spiritual as his late sleeping had interrupted his Ouiet Time. His biographer A T Pierson records that his "resumption of early rising secured long seasons of uninterrupted interviews with God, in prayer and meditation on the Scriptures before breakfast and...He found himself not worse but better physically...and, as to his spiritual life such new vitality and vigor accrued from his waiting upon God...that it continued to be the habit of his (later years)!" Of course, this story does not suggest an anemic Quiet Time will make one physically ill, but it does underscore the importance for one's SPIRITUAL health! Christian author Patrick Morley adds that "Whenever a man tells me that he doesn't feel very close to God, the first question I ask is, "Tell me about your devotional life (QT)." Often the problem is

just there." Indeed, for many the prospect of a regular QT is viewed more as drudgery than as delight, more as a ritual or routine than as a relationship. Henry Blackaby encourages us "not to think of the time you spend with God as a duty. The purpose of a QT is for you to get to know God. And as you come to know Him, you can walk out of your special times with God enjoying a living relationship with Him that you can cultivate all day and throughout your life." When we meet Christ at the Cross, we call that conversion. When we meet Him "in the closet" (QT), we call that conversation. At the Cross we come to know Christ initially, and in the closet we grow to know Him intimately (cp <u>2Pe 3:18-note</u>). Indeed, to be much like Christ, we must be much with Christ!

In the classic book "My Heart Christ's Home" Robert Munger writes "I remember one morning when I was in a hurry, rushing downstairs, eager to be on my way. As I passed the living room, the door was open. Looking in, I saw a fire in the fireplace and Jesus was sitting there. Suddenly in dismay I thought to myself, "He was my guest. I invited Him into my heart! He has come as Lord of my home. And yet here I am neglecting Him." I turned and went in. With downcast glance, I said, "Blessed Master, forgive me. Have You been here all these mornings?" "Yes," He said, "I told you I would be here every morning to meet with you." Then I was even more ashamed. He had been faithful in spite of my faithfulness. I asked His forgiveness and He readily forgave me as He does when we are truly repentant. "The trouble with you is this: you have been thinking of the quiet time, of the Bible study and prayer time, as a factor in your own spiritual progress, but you have forgotten that this hour means something to me also. Remember, I love you. I have redeemed you at great cost. I value your fellowship. Now," He said, "do not neglect this hour if only for my sake. Whatever else may be your desire, remember I want your fellowship!" The truth that Christ desires my companionship, that He loves me, wants me to be with Him, wants to be with me and waits for me, has done more to transform my quiet time with God than any other single fact. Don't let Christ wait alone in the living room of your heart, but every day find some time when, with vour Bible and in prayer, you may be together with Him."

IS YOUR QUIET TIME TOO QUIET? The most common reason given for not having a regular QT is "Not enough time!" Beloved, if you are too busy for a QT, then you are too busy! As Charles Hummel said "Adequate time for daily waiting on God (cpIsaiah 40:31-note) is the only way I can escape the tyranny of the urgent." Jesus, addressing His disciples gave a good description of QT saying "Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place & rest a little." (Mk 6:31KJV-note), to which Vance Havnerquipped "Jesus knows we must come apart & rest awhile or else we may just plain come apart!" Beloved, when the Bible becomes a part of you in your morning QT, you will be less likely to come apart during the rest of your day! Attachment to Christ is the secret of detachment from the world. We are called to live in the world, but we draw our strength from outside the world. As Howard Hendricks likes to say "you are either in the Word and the Word is conforming you to the image of Jesus Christ or you are in the world and the world is squeezing you into its mold (cp Ro 12:2Phillips-note, 1Pe 2:2-note)." In short, our time WITH GOD in the morning prepares us for our time WITH MEN during the day. George Sweeting former president of Moody Bible once said that "If we don't maintain a QT each day, it's not really because we are too busy; it's because we do not feel it is important enough. There's an old navy rule: when ships readjust their compass, they drop anchor in a QUIET SPOT (ponder that picture a moment in light of our discussion of quiet time).....Late nights kill the quiet time. Quiet time is not just a helpful idea, it is absolutely necessary to spiritual growth."

WHEN TO HAVE A QUIET TIME? Spurgeon said "In the morning is the fittest time for conversation with God. An hour in the morning is worth two in the evening. While the dew is on the grass, let grace drop upon the soul. Let us give to God the mornings of our days and the morning of our lives. Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night. Devotion should be both the morning star and the evening star." David, a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22-note on David) said "IN THE MORNING, O LORD, You will hear my voice. IN THE MORNING I will order my prayer to You and eagerly watch." (Ps 5:3-note) Baptist preacher Robert G Lee used to say "If you wake up in the morning and don't meet the devil face on, it just means you're headed in the same direction!" Hudson Taylor adds that "You don't tune up the instruments after the concert is over...(you) tune them before you start!" Job who was "blameless, upright, fearing God & turning away from evil" (Job 1:1-note) made it a continual practice of "rising up early IN THE MORNING & offering burnt offerings for each of his children." (Job 1:5-note) Puritan Thomas Watson (1620-1686) wrote that "The best time to converse with God is before worldly occasions stand knocking at the door to be let in: The morning is, as it were, the cream of the day, let the cream be taken off, and let God have it. Wind up thy heart towards heaven at the beginning of the day, and it will go the better all the day after. He that loses his heart in the morning in the world will hardly find it again all the day. O! Christians, let God have your morning meditations." Amen! Dawson Trotman, (founder of Navigators) actually had a morning & evening QT. His watchword in the evening was HWLW which stood for "His Word the Last Word," a reminder to himself to fall asleep meditating on God's Word. Spurgeon would have agreed for he used to say that Bible passages make soft pillows. The renowned expositor Stephen Olford once said "I want to hear the voice of God before I hear anyone else's in the MORNING, and His is the last voice I want to hear at NIGHT." Olford goes on to say that "The barometer of one's Christian life is the Quiet Time. Do you have a Quiet Time or have you let it slip? Be the man of God who takes time to be holy, speaks oft with his Lord, abides in Him only, and feeds on His Word." God grant that this may be true of each of us. Amen

BENEFIT OF QUIET TIME: Spurgeon once said that "If we are weak in communion with God we are weak everywhere." Do you find yourself seemingly unable to resist the temptations of a besetting sin (Heb 12:1-note)? Our sensitivity to sin & ability to resist temptation is directly proportional to our "nearness to God" (Ps 73:28-note). As the respected Scottish expositor John **Eadie** put it "power to live a new life depends upon daily communion with the living Lord (in His Living Word -Heb 4:12-note)." Have you noticed how quickly your Iphone loses its charge during the day? Now think about our spiritual life? Quiet Times are not optional if we are to have our "spiritual batteries regularly recharged", ready to meet the day's challenges! E M **Bounds** encourages us to spend quality time with God, for "Our ability to stay with God in our closet (QT) measures our ability to stay with God out of the closet." Vance Havner adds that "If our lives and ministry are to count for anything today, we must solemnly resolve to make time for God (QT)." It is well known that a piano can go out of tune by hard use. The constant striking of the strings may loosen them & they need to be adjusted if they are to continue producing harmonious sounds. "In like manner all common experiences have an exhausting effect upon us, even when we serve the Lord...As we minister to others, as we strive & struggle, duty drains our life-fountain. We then need to come into God's presence for spiritual renewal...In the quietness of that fellowship He tunes our lives and strengthens us for further service."

**HOW TO DO A QUIET TIME:** Keep it simple. Practice the Three P'S: A Place, a Pen (to write in your Bible and notebook) and Privacy. **One caveat: Minimize your use of devotional** 

**resources written by others.** Max Lucado says "If that is your approach, if your spiritual experiences are secondhand and not firsthand, I'd like to challenge you with this thought: Do you do that with others parts of your life? You don't do that with vacations. You don't do that with romance. You don't let someone eat on your behalf, do you? There are certain things no one can do for you. And one of those is spending time with God!" Most importantly, when you leave your "Quiet Time," don't let your "Quiet Time" leave you! In other words, as you enter the busyness of your day, remember to take with you the truths God has spoken to your soul during your time with Him! Consciously recall specifics [passages, insights, prayers, etc] at various intervals during the day. As you begin to practice the conscious choice to reflect on your QT with God, you are more likely to find that the rest of your day becomes an ongoing experience of His presence and power. Havner

Today, I'm going to be posting these **devotional studies in the Psalms** that will start on May 18th, 2020. You can use them for family altar time or personal devotional and studies. It it my prayer that through these great questions from the it's text that you will allow the Holy Spirit of God to teach you from His Word. The lessons will be posted on the church's band site and website.

Because of Calvary, Pastor K. Cunningham - 1 Cor. 15:57-58

Why study the Psalms? It's a help for:

• Enhancing our Prayer Life (or Life of Prayer) cf. disciples: "Lord, teach me to pray"

• Enhancing our Praise and Worship - "Lord, teach me to worship"

• Encouraging us to be Authentic and Transparent before God and Others

• Learning More About the Character and Person of God: His Goodness, His Sovereignty, His Holiness, His Wrath, His Lovingkindness, His Mercy, His Power, His Majesty, His Transcendence and yet Imminence balanced.

• Learning more about our Lord Jesus Christ as we see the Messiah in the Psalms

\* Leaarning about Ourselves and our Insufficiencies

Let Us open our hearts and learn from God's Word together:

# (Daily In the Word with Pastor K. Cunningham)

**Devotional Study for June 13th, 2020** 

# **Open in Prayer**

# Read: Psalm 66

(And answer the following questions.)

## Open It

- 1. What's the nicest thing anyone ever did for you?
- 2. What is something you have tried to get others to do, whether you were successful or not?

## Explore It

- 3. Whom does this psalm call to praise the Lord?  $(\underline{66:1-4})$
- 4. What specific instructions are given about praising the Lord? ( $\underline{66:1-4}$ )
- 5. Why did the psalm writer encourage others to praise God? ( $\underline{66:1-4}$ )
- 6. What did the psalm writer tell God's people to remember? Why? (66:5-7)
- 7. What advice is given to those who are tempted to rebel against the Lord? ( $\underline{66:7}$ )
- 8. What acts of deliverance did the psalm writer describe? ( $\underline{66:8-12}$ )
- 9. What purpose motivated God to allow His people to experience hardship? (66:9-12)
- 10. What kind of language is used to describe the way God purifies His people? (66:10)
- 11. What images did the psalm writer use to describe the testing Israel went through? ( $\underline{66:11-12}$ )
- 12. Where did the Lord take His people when He removed them from their situation of distress?  $(\underline{66:12})$
- 13. How did the psalm writer plan to fulfill his vows to the Lord? ( $\underline{66:13-15}$ )
- 14. Under what circumstances did the psalm writer make his vows to God? (66:14)
- 15. What proclamation does this psalm writer address to its audience? ( $\underline{66:16-20}$ )
- 16. How did the psalm writer testify to God's goodness? (<u>66:16-20</u>)
- 17. According to the psalm writer, when does God answer the prayers of His people? (66:18-19)

## Get It

- 18. Why does God allow us to experience hardship?
- 19. How should we react to failure or difficult experiences?
- 20. What does this psalm reveal about how we can make our prayers effective?
- 21. What do you think could inhibit the effectiveness of your prayers?
- 22. Why did the psalm writer remind others what God had done for them in the past?
- 23. What value is there in remembering what God has done for us?
- 24. How does your memory of God's blessings in the past encourage you to praise and trust Him today?
- 25. What can we learn from the testimony of the psalm writer in this passage?
- 26. How should we be involved in sharing what God has done for us?

27. What kinds of things prevent Christians from sharing their faith with others?

- 28. Why is it important to tell others about what God has done for us?
- 29. What specific instructions do we find in this psalm about how to praise God?

#### **Apply It**

30. What does this psalm encourage you to do?

- 31. What is one step you could take this week to make your prayers more effective?
- 32. Who is one person you could tell about what God has done for you?

Don't forget to close in prayer thanking and praising God for what you have learned from His Word.

## (Daily In the Word with Pastor K. Cunningham)

**Devotional Study for June 14th, 2020** 

## **Open in Prayer**

## Read: Psalm 70

(And answer the following questions.)

#### **Open It**

- 1. In what way is your life either fast paced or laid-back?
- 2. What goes through your mind when someone says to you, "Hurry up"?
- 3. What are some everyday examples of the fast-paced nature of life today?

### **Explore It**

- 4. What attitude begins and ends this psalm?  $(\underline{70:1}, \underline{5})$
- 5. What is the theme of this prayer? (70:1-5)
- 6. What did David ask of the Lord? (70:1-5)
- 7. What does this prayer reveal about David's relationship with the Lord? (70:1-5)
- 8. What predicament prompted David to write this psalm? (70:2-3)
- 9. What effects of God's help are described in this passage? (70:2-4)
- 10. How did David want God to treat his adversaries in comparison to other believers? (70:2-4)
- 11. In what specific ways did David depend on the Lord? (70:2-5)
- 12. How does this psalm describe the people whom God chooses to bless? (70:4)
- 13. How would God's deliverance of the psalm writer affect others? (70:4)
- 14. What reason did David have for praising the Lord? (70:4)
- 15. How did David feel about his ability to save himself?  $(\underline{70:5})$

- 16. How did the psalm writer describe the Lord?  $(\underline{70:5})$
- 17. What did David ask God to do? (70:5)

#### Get It

- 18. When are you often in a hurry?
- 19. What usually motivates us to pray?
- 20. When have you felt a sense of urgency in your prayers?
- 21. What should we do whenever we panic?
- 22. How should we pray when we feel a sense of urgency or panic?
- 23. When and how does God want us to pray?
- 24. What behavior and attitudes does this passage advise us to avoid?
- 25. According to this psalm, what should we do?
- 26. What does it mean to seek the Lord?
- 27. What can we learn from David's example of dependence on the Lord?
- 28. In what specific areas of your life do you need to depend more on the Lord?
- 29. How would you like your relationship with the Lord to be more like David's?
- 30. About what do you feel a sense of urgency or that time is running out?
- 31. In what ways do you think you could strengthen your relationship with God?

### **Apply It**

- 32. What urgent or pressing matter will you bring to the Lord today?
- 33. How do you want to pray differently about your most pressing concerns?
- 34. What changes would you like to make in your prayer habits this next week?

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## (Daily In the Word with Pastor K. Cunningham)

**Devotional Study for June 15th, 2020** 

## **Open in Prayer**

## Read: Psalm 71

### (And answer the following questions.)

### **Open It**

- 1. What is one skill or ability you wish you had?
- 2. In what ways have you changed as you've grown older?
- 3. Under what circumstances or in what settings do you feel vulnerable?

### **Explore It**

- 4. How does the psalm writer's appeal for help introduce the passage? (71:1-4)
- 5. What is the dominant theme of this psalm?  $(\underline{71:1-24})$
- 6. What did the psalm writer recognize about God's help in the past? (71:5-8)
- 7. Why did the psalm writer compare himself to a "portent" (an omen or warning)? (71:7)
- 8. What weaknesses were the psalm writer's enemies trying to take advantage of? (71:9-11)
- 9. What central prayer request did the psalm writer present to the Lord? (71:9-13)
- 10. Why did the psalm writer need the Lord's deliverance? (71:10-11)
- 11. What renewed commitment did the psalm writer make to God in his old age? (71:14-18)
- 12. How does the Lord express His righteousness? (71:16-17)
- 13. In whom did the psalm writer hope in the face of all his enemies? (71:19-21)
- 14. How is the Lord's righteousness described? (71:19)
- 15. What commitment to the Lord concludes this psalm? (71:22-24)
- 16. What did the psalm writer anticipate in the future? (71:24)

### Get It

17. What does this psalm teach us about God's character?

- 18. How does your knowledge of God's character affect your everyday life?
- 19. How have you experienced God's help in the past?
- 20. How have you seen God use one of your weaknesses for His glory?
- 21. How does remembering God's help in the past encourage you?
- 22. In what areas of your life do you need God's help or deliverance now?
- 23. How does this psalm encourage you to trust the Lord?
- 24. What does it mean for you to trust the Lord with your life?
- 25. How would you like to renew your commitment to the Lord?

### **Apply It**

26. To whom could you tell a story of what God has done for you in the past?

27. How could you express a renewal of your faith in the Lord?

28. What small step of faith could you take this week to demonstrate your renewed commitment to trust the Lord?

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(Daily In the Word with Pastor K. Cunningham)

**Devotional Study for June 16th, 2020** 

# **Open in Prayer**

# Read: Psalm 73

## (And answer the following questions.)

## Open It

- 1. What unfairness or injustice do you see in your day-to-day life?
- 2. What do you think is the most desirable thing on earth?
- 3. Whom do you envy most, and what do you envy about him or her?
- 4. Who are some of the most prosperous people in the public eye?

## **Explore** It

- 5. To whom does God show His goodness? (73:1)
- 6. What dilemma did the author of this psalm face? (73:1-3)
- 7. What is ironic about the way the wicked live?  $(\underline{73:4-12})$
- 8. What characterizes the wicked?  $(\underline{73:4-12})$
- 9. Why do the wicked take pride in themselves?  $(\underline{73:4-12})$

10. In what way is this a description of wicked people: "pride is their necklace, they clothe themselves with violence"?  $(\underline{73:6})$ 

- 11. What attitude do wicked people have toward God? (73:11)
- 12. Why did the psalm writer think that his own righteousness was in vain? (73:13)
- 13. How was the psalm writer affected by the prosperity of the wicked? (73:13-14, 21-22)

14. When did the psalm writer understand that the prosperity of the wicked didn't matter?  $(\underline{73:17})$ 

- 15. What did God reveal to the psalm writer about the wicked? (73:18-19)
- 16. How is God's treatment of the wicked and the faithful contrasted? (73:18-19, 23-27)

17. How did the psalm writer respond when he realized that the prosperity of the wicked is temporary?  $(\underline{73:18-28})$ 

- 18. What is the most desirable thing on earth?  $(\underline{73:25})$
- 19. With what vow did the author conclude his psalm?  $(\underline{73:28})$

## Get It

- 20. How are we just like the writer of this psalm?
- 21. How do you usually feel when you see bad people succeed and good people fail?
- 22. Why do we envy others' success?
- 23. How are you affected by the prosperity of wicked people?
- 24. Why do you think God allows sinful people to succeed or get rich?
- 25. What should be our response when we see sinful people succeed?

26. How should you react when you experience failure in your life?

27. When has God guided you through a difficult problem?

28. What new perspective does this passage give you about your own circumstances?

29. How can we have God's perspective when we feel confused or upset about the way our world is?

30. What have you learned about the role of worship in our lives?

## Apply It

31. What can you do to be content the next time you feel unfairly unrewarded for the good you do?

32. How can you help yourself remember that God is in control the next time you get frustrated with the unfairness you see around you?

# Don't forget to close in prayer thanking and praising God for what you have learned from His Word.

# (Daily In the Word with Pastor K. Cunningham)

**Devotional Study for June 17th, 2020** 

## **Open in Prayer**

## Read: Psalm 75

### (And answer the following questions.)

### **Open It**

1. What do you think it would be like to know the future?

- 2. If you had the opportunity to find out, what would you want to know about the future?
- 3. In your view, what is good or bad about "trial by jury" in our criminal justice system?

## **Explore It**

4. What two elements of worship begin and end this song? (75:1, 9-10)

- 5. What is the theme of this song?  $(\underline{75:1-10})$
- 6. When and how does the Lord judge the earth?  $(\underline{75:2})$
- 7. What reassuring word from God forms the first half of the passage?  $(\underline{75:2-5})$
- 8. In what way is God superior to any person or part of creation? (75:3)
- 9. Who offers the world stability in the face of uncertainty?  $(\underline{75:3})$
- 10. What causes the moral order of the earth to decline?  $(\underline{75:3-5})$
- 11. What message is there for the arrogant and the wicked in this psalm?  $(\underline{75:4})$
- 12. What image is used to describe the defiance of the wicked against the Lord?  $(\underline{75:4-5})$
- 13. What does the psalm writer say about the position of humankind?  $(\underline{75:6})$

14. How do God's people respond to the word from heaven?  $(\underline{75:6-8})$ 

- 15. How is the success or failure of humankind decided? (75:7)
- 16. The wine represents God's judgment—who will "drink" this wine? (75:8)
- 17. What vow concludes the psalm? (75:9)
- 18. What does this psalm say about the final outcome of the wicked and the righteous? (75:10)

#### Get It

19. Under what circumstances do people sometimes feel as if the world is crumbling around them?

20. How does this psalm encourage us to face the uncertainties of life?

- 21. What does this psalm teach us about God's control of the events of our lives?
- 22. How has your relationship with the Lord helped you face an uncertain future?
- 23. What makes God the only One qualified to judge us?
- 24. In what ways do we judge one another when we shouldn't?
- 25. What attitude does this psalm advise us to avoid?
- 26. How can a proud spirit bring confusion and instability into a person's life?
- 27. What does an arrogant attitude demonstrate about a person's heart toward God?
- 28. How can we guard against the sin of pride?
- 29. What does this passage teach us about thankfulness and praise?

### **Apply It**

30. What specific steps could you take this week to cultivate a spirit of humility before God?

31. What is one way in which you could be more tolerant of and less judgmental toward other people?

32. How could you express thankfulness for the stability God brings to your life?

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## (Daily In the Word with Pastor K. Cunningham)

**Devotional Study for June 18th, 2020** 

# **Open in Prayer**

## Read: Psalm 77

(And answer the following questions.)

### **Open It**

1. What do you do to strengthen your relationships with your friends?

2. How are friendships weakened?

## **Explore It**

- 3. Why was the psalm writer perplexed? (77:1-9)
- 4. How did the psalm writer feel about God's inaction on his behalf? (77:1-9)
- 5. What main idea forms the theme of this psalm?  $(\underline{77:1-20})$
- 6. What did the psalm writer recall about God's mercies in the past? (77:3-6)

7. How did remembering God's help in the past make the psalm writer feel about his present situation?  $(\underline{77:3-6})$ 

8. What decision did the psalm writer make about how to handle God's inactivity in his present situation? (77:10-12)

9. How was the psalm writer's decision to remember God's help in the past an act of faith? (77:10-12)

10. How does this passage describe God's character? (77:11-15)

11. How did God demonstrate His power to the nation of Israel? (77:13-20)

12. What specific historical event did the psalm writer remember to celebrate God's majesty?  $(\underline{77:16-19})$ 

13. How did God reveal His power over nature? (77:16-19)

14. What conclusion did the psalm writer make about God's involvement in the lives of His people? (77:20)

15. What imagery is used to describe God's guidance? (77:20)

### Get It

16. How did the psalm writer overcome his feelings of doubt and discouragement?

- 17. How can we nurture our relationship with the Lord?
- 18. What resulted from the psalm writer's meditation on God's works in the past?
- 19. When have you felt far away from the Lord?
- 20. Why do you think we sometimes feel that God is distant and unreachable?
- 21. How can we follow the psalm writer's example in dealing with doubt and discouragement?
- 22. How can we be sure of God's guidance in the future?
- 23. What has God done for you in the past that you want to remember?

24. What memories of God's help in the past encourage you to believe that He will help you in the future?

25. What can we learn from the psalm writer's conclusion in this passage?

### **Apply It**

26. Who is one person you can ask to pray with you the next time you feel discouraged?

- 27. How can you remind yourself this week of God's faithfulness to you in the past?
- 28. How could you praise the Lord today for His presence, mercy, and guidance in your life?

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# (Daily In the Word with Pastor K. Cunningham)

**Devotional Study for June 19th, 2020** 

## **Open in Prayer**

## Read: Psalm 82

#### (And answer the following questions.)

### **Open It**

- 1. What kinds of things prevent us from getting involved in social issues?
- 2. Who are the needy people of your community?
- 3. When was the last time someone helped you out?

## **Explore It**

- 4. To what is the psalm writer referring when he speaks of the "great assembly"? (82:1)
- 5. What is the theme of this psalm?  $(\underline{82:1-8})$
- 6. To which of the Lord's roles does this psalm appeal?  $(\underline{82:1-8})$
- 7. What did the psalm writer see in his vision of God's judgment? (82:1-8)

8. What primary task of kings and judges were the leaders, whom the psalm writer condemned, failing to accomplish? (82:3-4)

9. How did the psalm writer describe the leaders he condemned?  $(\underline{82:5})$ 

- 10. Why did the psalm writer refer to darkness? (82:5)
- 11. For what reason were the "foundations of the earth" shaken? (82:5)
- 12. How will the wicked leaders of the world be treated by the righteous? (82:6)
- 13. How does the psalm imply that the wicked leaders took their power and status to an extreme?  $(\underline{82:6})$
- 14. What outcome did the psalm writer predict for the wicked rulers?  $(\underline{82:7})$
- 15. What prayer concludes the psalm?  $(\underline{82:8})$
- 16. Why did the psalm writer ask the Lord to judge the earth?  $(\underline{82:8})$

## Get It

- 17. What does this passage tell us about leadership?
- 18. What kind of leaders are condemned?
- 19. How do immoral leaders affect the stability of a whole nation?
- 20. What future can wicked leaders expect?

21. What attitudes and behaviors does this psalm advise us to avoid?

- 22. How do you need to change your attitude toward the underprivileged of your community?
- 23. What responsibility do you think Christians have to help the underprivileged of society?
- 24. How should we be involved in defending and rescuing the needy?
- 25. What kind of leaders does God want us to be?
- 26. According to the psalm writer, what is a leader's main task?
- 27. In what way are you a leader at work, church, in your community, or in the home?

## Apply It

28. What specific steps could you take this week to improve your leadership skills?

29. How could you protect or help a needy neighbor, friend, or family member in a tangible way?

# Don't forget to close in prayer thanking and praising God for what you have learned from His Word.

# (Daily In the Word with Pastor K. Cunningham)

**Devotional Study for June 20th, 2020** 

# **Open in Prayer**

# Read: Psalm 84

(And answer the following questions.)

## Open It

1. What's one thing you like about your church? One thing you dislike?

2. What kind of vacations do you most look forward to?

## **Explore** It

3. How did the psalm writer describe the house of the Lord?  $(\underline{84:1-4})$ 

- 4. What was the psalm writer's desire? (84:1-12)
- 5. What experience did the psalm writer miss from the past?  $(\underline{84:1-12})$
- 6. How did the psalm writer describe his longing for God's house? (84:2)
- 7. Why was the psalm writer jealous of the birds?  $(\underline{84:3})$
- 8. Why did the psalm writer want to return to God's temple? (84:4)
- 9. What pilgrimage did the psalm writer describe in this passage?  $(\underline{84:5})$
- 10. How did the psalm writer describe the joy of going to Zion to worship God? (84:5-7)

11. How did the travelers' expectations of God's house change his attitude toward the difficulties of the journey?  $(\underline{84:6-7})$ 

- 12. What prayer did the psalm writer offer to the Lord? (<u>84:8-11</u>)
- 13. What would the psalm writer choose over status or power?  $(\underline{84:10})$
- 14. What attitude did the psalm writer have toward God's temple? (84:10-11)
- 15. What character traits of the Lord's did the psalm writer praise? (84:11)
- 16. Why did the psalm writer refer to God as a "sun and shield"? (84:11)
- 17. What conclusion did the psalm writer draw? (84:12)

#### Get It

18. How does this passage challenge us to view the opportunity to go to church?

- 19. What attitude should we have toward church?
- 20. What should be our motivation in going to church?
- 21. What kinds of distractions prevent us from looking forward to going to church?
- 22. Under what circumstances do you sometimes feel like skipping church?

23. Why do you think we sometimes take church for granted?

24. How can we renew our desire to worship God and have a positive attitude toward going to church?

25. How do you need to change your attitude about church or worship?

26. What change do you need to make in your everyday habits to help you have the proper attitude toward attending church each week?

27. Why is it sometimes most important to attend church on those days when we don't feel like going?

28. How should our expectations of worshiping God on Sunday mornings affect our preparations to go to church?

### **Apply It**

29. In practical terms, what can you do to make getting to church less stressful or frustrating?

30. What practical steps could you take this week to prepare yourself to worship God next Sunday at church?

31. What can you do the day before worship to help you enter worship with the right attitude and motivation?

Don't forget to close in prayer thanking and praising God for what you have learned from His Word.

# (Daily In the Word with Pastor K. Cunningham)

**Devotional Study for June 21st, 2020** 

# **Open in Prayer**

# Read: Psalm 90

## (And answer the following questions.)

## Open It

1. What do you think of when you hear the phrase, "One thousand years"?

2. What are some of the things you'd like to do in the next five years? Next ten years? Before you die?

3. Before you die, what is one: Book you'd like to read? Place you'd like to go? Deed you'd like to do?

## **Explore** It

4. What mercies from God did Moses recall? (90:1-2)

5. What is the theme of this prayer? (90:1-17)

6. How does this prayer reveal Moses' humility? (90:1-17)

- 7. What picture does this psalm paint about our state before God? (90:1-17)
- 8. What caused Moses to turn to God for help? (90:1-17)
- 9. How did Moses describe humankind's condition under God's wrath? (90:3-10)
- 10. What imagery is used to highlight humankind's insignificance and God's greatness? (90:4-6)
- 11. How did Moses feel about God's judgment? (90:7-9)
- 12. What does God's holy light reveal? (90:8)
- 13. How does this psalm depict the lives of people? (90:9-10)
- 14. What did Moses want the Lord to teach him? Why? (90:12)
- 15. What prayer concludes the psalm? (90:13-17)

16. What promise did Moses make to God in return for His compassion? (90:14)

## Get It

17. What does the psalm teach us about the attitude we should have toward ourselves? Toward God?

- 18. What builds a person's self-esteem?
- 19. What destroys a sense of self-worth?
- 20. How can we balance a healthy self-esteem with a humble attitude?

21. How does this passage challenge us to depend on God rather than rely on our own abilities and strength?

- 22. In what way should we depend on God?
- 23. According to the writer of this psalm, how can we "gain a heart of wisdom"?
- 24. What does it mean to "number our days"?

25. How much longer do you expect to live?

26. What should motivate us to turn to God for help?

27. How does remembering God's help in the past encourage you to trust Him with your future?

28. What fears do you have about your future?

29. How should you deal with your fears in light of this passage?

#### **Apply It**

30. How could you remind yourself of God's past faithfulness more often?

31. What change do you need to make in your attitudes or actions to show God the respect and honor He deserves?

32. What concrete action could you take this week to entrust the Lord with your future?

# Don't forget to close in prayer thanking and praising God for what you have learned from His Word.

## (Daily In the Word with Pastor K. Cunningham)

**Devotional Study for June 22nd, 2020** 

## **Open in Prayer**

## Read: Psalm 91

### (And answer the following questions.)

### **Open It**

1. What endangers our health and safety in today's world?

2. What emotions do you feel when you think about the dangers you face?

### **Explore It**

3. What are three images used in the passage to convey God's protection over His loved ones? (91:1-2, 4)

4. What is the central theme of this poem? (91:1-16)

5. How is the person who trusts in God described? (91:1-16)

- 6. What military words are used and what purpose do they serve? (91:1-16)
- 7. What concrete reasons did the psalm writer give us to find our security in God? (91:1-16)
- 8. What did the psalm writer reveal as his own worst fears? (91:3-6)
- 9. Which acts of God's deliverance are listed in the passage? (91:3-8)
- 10. How does the list of dangers in the poem highlight God's protection? (91:3-8)
- 11. What condition did the author place on God's protection? (91:9-10)
- 12. What role do angels play in our lives? (91:11-12)

13. What reason does the Lord give for rescuing His children? (91:14-15)

14. What must a person do to receive God's protection? (91:14-15)

15. What specific promises does God give to His people? (91:15-16)

#### Get It

16. In what ways is God like a fortress, a shadow, and a bird?

- 17. What characteristics does God have in common with a fortress, a shadow, and a bird?
- 18. What words or images would you use to describe the Lord's protection in your life?

19. When have you experienced the protection of the Lord?

- 20. How should we respond when God's delivers or protects us from danger?
- 21. What are your worst fears?
- 22. How do you typically deal with your fears?
- 23. How does the psalm writer encourage us to trust the Lord with our fears?

24. What does this passage teach us about prayer?

25. How do you think you could improve your prayer habits?

26. How has your attitude toward the dangers of life changed in light of what you have learned about God's character?

27. What dangers do you expect to face in the next few weeks?

### **Apply It**

28. What simple action can you take each day to entrust the Lord with your fears?

- 29. How could you encourage another friend who is struggling with fear?
- 30. With what sort of prayer might you celebrate God's care and protection?

# Don't forget to close in prayer thanking and praising God for what you have learned from His Word.

# (Daily In the Word with Pastor K. Cunningham) Devotional Study for June 23rd, 2020

## **Open in Prayer**

## Read: Psalm 92

(And answer the following questions.)

## **Open It**

- 1. Why are advertisements so misleading?
- 2. What are some examples of relatively harmless, short-lived pleasures (such as ice cream)?
- 3. What value is there in the cliché, "No pain, no gain"?

#### **Explore It**

- 4. How does the psalm introduce its topic? (92:1-3)
- 5. What does this passage celebrate? (92:1-15)
- 6. What is the theme of the psalm writer's testimony?  $(\underline{92:1-15})$
- 7. What motivated the psalm writer to offer this song of praise to God? (92:4-5, 10-11)
- 8. How does this psalm describe the foolishness and destiny of the wicked? (92:6-9)
- 9. What do fools fail to understand? (92:6-9)
- 10. How are the pleasures of evil misleading? (92:7)
- 11. What had the Lord done for the psalm writer? (92:10-11)
- 12. What imagery is used to describe the prosperity of the righteous? (92:12-14)
- 13. Why are the righteous compared to a tree? (92:12-14)
- 14. What kind of future can the righteous expect? (92:12-15)
- 15. Under what circumstances do the righteous flourish? (92:12-15)
- 16. What are the righteous like? (92:12-15)
- 17. In what way will the righteous "bear fruit"? (92:14)

#### Get It

- 18. What does this psalm teach us about the consequences of sin?
- 19. What does this passage tell us about the rewards of righteousness?
- 20. Why are the temptations of the world so misleading?
- 21. What are the short-term benefits of sin?
- 22. What are the long-term consequences of sin?
- 23. Under what conditions can we expect to grow and mature as Christians?
- 24. What are the benefits of taking time to worship God?
- 25. How does our attitude affect what kind of nourishment we receive when we go to church?
- 26. What can you do to take greater advantage of the opportunity to worship God?
- 27. What steps can we take to "stay fresh and green" in our faith?
- 28. What kind of "fruit" should a Christian bear?
- 29. What "pruning" do you need to do in your life?

### Apply It

30. What small change could you make to lessen the attraction or pull of a needless temptation in your life?

- 31. When might you be able to spend some extra time in prayer and meditation this week?
- 32. What works or deeds of God in your life do you want to record or write down?

# Don't forget to close in prayer thanking and praising God for what you have learned from His Word.

## (Daily In the Word with Pastor K. Cunningham)

**Devotional Study for June 24th, 2020** 

# **Open in Prayer**

## **Read: Psalm 93** (And answer the following questions.)

## **Open It**

1. What examples of order and consistency do you see in nature?

2. What do you do when you need to do something (open a jar, clean up after a sick child, life a heavy item) for which you do not have the strength?

## **Explore It**

3. How is the order of creation maintained? (93:1)

- 4. What do we know about the Lord's reign? (93:1-2)
- 5. What caused the people of Israel to trust in the Lord?  $(\underline{93:1-2})$
- 6. What is the focus of this hymn?  $(\underline{93:1-5})$
- 7. What character traits of the Lord's does this psalm celebrate?  $(\underline{93:1-5})$
- 8. What can God's people expect of the future?  $(\underline{93:2}, \underline{5})$
- 9. How does God demonstrate His power over the world? (93:3-4)
- 10. What imagery is used to describe the threats God's people face?  $(\underline{93:3-4})$
- 11. How does this psalm compare God's power to nature? (93:3-5)

12. What conclusion did the psalm writer draw from his meditation on the Lord's character?  $(\underline{93:5})$ 

13. What encouragement did the psalm writer offer God's people? (93:5)

14. How did the psalm writer describe the reliability of God's instructions to His people? (93:5)

## Get It

15. To what concerns of yours does this hymn speak?

- 16. What kind of dangers threaten our security?
- 17. How does God want us to view our fears and vulnerabilities?
- 18. How does meditating on God's character help us to trust Him?
- 19. What conclusions about God's character can we draw from this psalm?
- 20. What does the organization of nature tell us about God?

21. If we did not have the Bible, what could we know about God's character from observing His creation?

22. How has God demonstrated His power in your life?

23. How does this passage challenge you to view the future?

24. What does this psalm say about the reliability of God's instructions?

25. What life directives has the Lord given to us?

### **Apply It**

26. In what way could you entrust your life more to God, who is steadfast and unmovable?

27. What picture, poem, or object could you use to remind yourself of God's majesty and strength?

Don't forget to close in prayer thanking and praising God for what you have learned from His Word.

## (Daily In the Word with Pastor K. Cunningham)

**Devotional Study for June 25th, 2020** 

## **Open in Prayer Read: Psalm 95**

(And answer the following questions.)

## **Open It**

- 1. What is one lesson you have learned from the past?
- 2. What are some things that people often become so familiar with that they ignore them?

## **Explore It**

- 3. How is the Lord described? (<u>95:1</u>, <u>3</u>, <u>6</u>)
- 4. What call did the psalm writer give to God's people? (95:1-5)
- 5. What is the main idea of this psalm? (95:1-11)
- 6. What reasons did the psalm writer give Israel to praise the Lord? (95:3-5)
- 7. How did God's power and authority extend far beyond the gods of Israel's neighbors? (95:3-5)
- 8. How did the psalm writer advise the righteous to demonstrate their submission to God? (95:6)

9. What should motivate God's people to worship Him? (95:6-7)

- 10. How should God's people acknowledge God's kingship over them? (95:6-11)
- 11. What advice did this psalm offer to the Israelites? (95:6-11)
- 12. What imagery is used to describe the relationship God wants to have with His people? (95:7)
- 13. How did the psalm writer want Israel to respond differently to God's voice? (95:7-11)
- 14. Why did the psalm writer remind Israel of her rebellion in the past? (95:8-11)
- 15. Why did the Lord expect the Israelites to remain faithful to Him? (95:9)
- 16. Why did God condemn Israel to forty years in the desert? (95:10)

17. What were the consequences of the Israelites' rebellion? (95:11)

### Get It

18. What specific instructions does this psalm give us about worship?

- 19. Why do you think the psalm writer called God's people to bow before the Lord?
- 20. What motivates you to offer praise and thanksgiving to God?
- 21. What lessons have you learned from your struggles in the past?
- 22. What are some of the dangers of dwelling on the past?
- 23. What attitude do you think God wants us to have toward our failures?
- 24. What have been some of the consequences of your failures?
- 25. How does this passage encourage us to look beyond our failures and learn from them?
- 26. How can we guard against hardening our hearts to the Lord?

27. What steps can we take to keep our minds and hearts sensitive to God?

## Apply It

28. How do you plan to follow the psalm writer's advice about worshiping God?

29. What step could you take in prayer this week to accept God's forgiveness for failures in the past?

30. What can you do to become more sensitive to God's voice?

Don't forget to close in prayer thanking and praising God for what you have learned from His Word.

# (Daily In the Word with Pastor K. Cunningham)

**Devotional Study for June 26th, 2020** 

# Open in Prayer Read: Psalm 99

(And answer the following questions.)

## Open It

1. Who calls on you in times of need?

2. What kinds of things have you found prevent people (whether children, co-workers, neighbors, or family members) from understanding you?

3. With whom do you sometimes have difficulty communicating? Why?

## **Explore It**

4. How should the world respond to God's holy reign? (99:1)

- 5. What motivated the psalm writer to write this hymn of praise? (99:1-9)
- 6. Why should people praise and honor the Lord? (99:2-3)

- 7. How did God demonstrate His justice in Israel? (99:4)
- 8. How does this psalm describe the quality of God's reign? (99:4-5)
- 9. Why did the psalm writer refer to God's "footstool"? (99:5)
- 10. Who communicated with God? (99:6-7)
- 11. How did God show Himself to Israel? (99:6-7)
- 12. Whom did the Lord choose to be His representatives? (99:6-7)
- 13. What role did Moses, Aaron, and Samuel play in Israel? (99:6-7)
- 14. What kind of relationship did Moses, Aaron, and Samuel have with the Lord? (99:6-7)
- 15. How did God deal with the sins of the Israelites? (99:8)
- 16. What does God's treatment of Israel reveal about His character? (99:8-9)
- 17. What concluding instructions did the psalm writer offer God's people? (99:9)
- 18. What should motivate people to praise the Lord? (99:9)

#### Get It

- 19. What does this psalm tell us about praise?
- 20. What does this psalm teach us about the Lord?
- 21. How does God demonstrate His holiness to us?
- 22. How can we expect to be judged by God?
- 23. What kind of relationship does God desire to have with us?
- 24. How does God communicate with us?
- 25. What steps can we take to become more sensitive to God's voice?
- 26. What does it mean to worship the Lord?
- 27. What inhibits our worship of the Lord?
- 28. What can we do about the distractions that prevent us from praising God?
- 29. How should we respond to God's forgiveness?

#### **Apply It**

- 30. How can you thank God for His forgiveness?
- 31. What is one concrete way you can celebrate God's holiness this week?
- 32. What steps could you take this week to open your lines of communication with God?

# Don't forget to close in prayer thanking and praising God for what you have learned from His Word.

## (Daily In the Word with Pastor K. Cunningham)

**Devotional Study for June 27th, 2020** 

# Open in Prayer Read: Psalm 100

(And answer the following questions.)

## Open It

1. When do you feel like shouting for joy or singing?

2. When (in what situations or for what acts) do you expect a thank you or acknowledgment of a favor you've done?

## **Explore It**

- 3. What attitude is recommended to accompany the praise of God's people? (100:1, 4)
- 4. Who is called to worship the Lord? (100:1-3)
- 5. Why is the Lord worthy of praise? (100:1-5)
- 6. How does the psalm writer describe the relationship God has with His followers? (100:3)
- 7. What imagery is used to describe God's protection of His people? (100:2)
- 8. What does this psalm say about Israel's special relationship with the Lord? (100:3, 5)
- 9. Why should the world acknowledge the Lord through praise? (100:3-5)
- 10. Where should believers offer their praise to God? (100:4)
- 11. How should a person enter God's house? (100:4)
- 12. How does God demonstrate His goodness to the world? (100:5)
- 13. How does this psalm describe the reliability of God's character? (100:5)

## Get It

- 14. What message comes through most clearly to you in this psalm?
- 15. What does this psalm advise us to do?
- 16. What should motivate us to worship God?
- 17. What is sincere worship?
- 18. What attitude should we have toward worshiping God?

19. What changes do you feel you could make to improve your attitude toward worship and praising God?

- 20. What relationship does the Lord want to have with us?
- 21. How does this psalm challenge you to rely on the Lord?

## **Apply It**

22. What statement of praise could you give to God today?

23. What is one specific step you could take to ensure that your worship of God is sincere and meaningful?

24. How could you prepare yourself to praise and thank God the next time you go to church for worship?

Don't forget to close in prayer thanking and praising God for what you have learned from His Word.

# (Daily In the Word with Pastor K. Cunningham)

**Devotional Study for June 28th, 2020** 

# Open in Prayer Read: Psalm 101

## (And answer the following questions.)

## Open It

1. In what settings do you feel pressure from others to behave a certain way?

2. What are some positive lessons you have learned from watching friends, family members, or acquaintances?

## **Explore It**

3. How does the psalm describe the Lord's character? (101:1)

- 4. What does the introduction of the psalm celebrate? (101:1-2)
- 5. What is the focus of this poem? (101:1-8)
- 6. What promises did David make to the Lord? (101:1-8)
- 7. How did David plan to remain pure before the Lord? (101:1-8)
- 8. What did David ask of the Lord? (<u>101:2</u>)
- 9. How did David describe the extent of his commitment to God? (<u>101:2-3, 6-8</u>)
- 10. How did David contrast his own attitude to that of the wicked? (101:2-8)
- 11. What attitude did David have toward the wicked? (101:3-8)
- 12. What accusations did David make against the wicked? (101:4-7)
- 13. How could David guard against the influence of the wicked? (101:4-8)
- 14. Whose company did David want to keep? Why? (101:6)

## Get It

- 15. What glimpse does this psalm give into the kind of relationship David had with the Lord?
- 16. What strategy did David have to lead a blameless life?
- 17. What does it mean to lead a blameless life?
- 18. In what specific ways do you think we should follow David's example?
- 19. What steps can we take to strengthen our commitment to God?
- 20. Who has helped you mature in your Christian walk?
- 21. What attitudes should we have toward unbelievers?
- 22. How do you think your choice of friends affects the way you live?

23. Why is peer pressure so powerful?

24. How can we prevent ourselves from being negatively influenced by unbelievers?

25. How can we ensure that the influence of friends plays a positive role in our lives?

26. What changes does this psalm challenge you to make in the company you keep?

#### **Apply It**

27. What steps could you take to strengthen your relationships with the people who have a positive influence on your life?

28. What is one change you need to make to reduce the negative influence of people in your life?

29. What can you do to find a balance in the friends you keep?

Don't forget to close in prayer thanking and praising God for what you have learned from His Word.

## (Daily In the Word with Pastor K. Cunningham)

**Devotional Study for June 29th, 2020** 

# Open in Prayer Read: Psalm 103

(And answer the following questions.)

### **Open It**

1. According to TV and advertisements that you often see, what attitude should we have about ourselves?

2. What are some of the benefits of your job (whether paid or not)?

3. What are some frail or fragile possessions that you have taken steps to protect from damage?

## **Explore It**

4. What call introduces and concludes the hymn? (<u>103:1-2</u>, <u>20-22</u>)

5. What is the focus of this psalm? (103:1-22)

- 6. What personal benefits did the psalm writer receive from the Lord? (103:3-5)
- 7. What imagery did the psalm writer use to emphasize his message? (103:4-5, 11-16)
- 8. How does the psalm characterize God's reign? (103:6, 19)
- 9. What mercies did the Lord give to the nation of Israel? (103:7-19)
- 10. How does the Lord respond to the sinfulness of people? (103:8-10)
- 11. How is God's love and forgiveness depicted? (103:8-13)
- 12. How does God demonstrate His compassion for His people? (103:8-18)
- 13. To whom does the Lord give His blessings? (103:13, 17-18)
- 14. How are we described in this passage? (103:14-16)

- 15. What are people like? (<u>103:14-16</u>)
- 16. What did the psalm writer compare to grass? Why? (103:15-16)
- 17. What specific instructions conclude the psalm? (103:20-22)

#### Get It

- 18. What can we learn from this psalm about God's character?
- 19. What can we learn from this psalm about people?
- 20. In what specific ways should we imitate the psalm writer's attitude?
- 21. What does this passage teach us about ourselves?
- 22. How is the Christian view of people different from the secular view?
- 23. What are the benefits of having a good self-image?
- 24. How can we cultivate an attitude of humility?
- 25. What does it mean to fear the Lord?
- 26. How can we know God's will?
- 27. What can we do to ensure that we are doing God's will?
- 28. How has God made Himself known to us?
- 29. How has God demonstrated His compassion to you?
- 30. What blessings from the Lord have you enjoyed?
- 31. What can we learn from this psalm about how to praise God?

#### **Apply It**

- 32. What gift of praise can you offer to the Lord today?
- 33. How can you prevent yourself from having a proud attitude this week?
- 34. What specific steps could you take to remember God's commands in the Bible?

# Don't forget to close in prayer thanking and praising God for what you have learned from His Word.

## (Daily In the Word with Pastor K. Cunningham)

## **Devotional Study for June 30th, 2020**

## **Open in Prayer Read: Psalm 113**

#### (And answer the following questions.)

#### **Open It**

- 1. Who are the lowly people in our society?
- 2. Who are the needy people in your community?

3. What do you think is effective or ineffective about government programs (such as welfare, unemployment compensation, medicare, etc.) that help people with special needs?

## **Explore It**

- 4. Whom does the psalm call to praise the Lord?  $(\underline{113:1})$
- 5. What does this hymn celebrate?  $(\underline{113:1-9})$
- 6. What motivated the psalm writer to write this hymn of praise to the Lord? (113:1-9)
- 7. What imagery is used to describe the extent to which the Lord deserves praise?  $(\underline{113:3})$
- 8. How is the Lord's majesty contrasted to our humility? (113:4-9)
- 9. How is the Lord described? (<u>113:4-9</u>)
- 10. What seven verbs did the psalm writer use to celebrate God's worthiness of praise? (113:4-9)
- 11. Why is the Lord worthy of the praise of His people?  $(\underline{113:5-9})$
- 12. How is God's love demonstrated to His people?  $(\underline{113:6-9})$
- 13. What imagery did the psalm writer use to depict the circumstances of the needy? (113:7)
- 14. How does God honor the lowly?  $(\underline{113:7-9})$
- 15. How did the psalm writer expect God to meet the needs of the lowly?  $(\underline{113:7-9})$
- 16. What example is used to characterize the needy?  $(\underline{113:9})$
- 17. How does the Lord satisfy the desires of women who want but cannot have children? (113:9)

## Get It

- 18. What does this psalm teach you about how to praise the Lord?
- 19. Why should we praise the Lord?
- 20. What are the benefits of meditating on God's holiness and greatness?
- 21. How has God stooped down to meet our needs?
- 22. How do you think Christians can be involved in meeting the needs of people around them?
- 23. How have you experienced the Lord's compassion in your life?
- 24. What can we learn from the psalm writer's words about depending on God for help?
- 25. What should we expect from the Lord?
- 26. In what specific ways do you need the Lord to help you?
- 27. What should be your response to God's help?
- 28. How can we offer our worship to the Lord all day long, as the psalm writer advises?

## **Apply It**

29. How do you plan to present your needs to the Lord this week?

30. What offering of praise can you give to God today in anticipation for what He will do for you?

- 31. How could you creatively remind yourself throughout each day to worship the Lord?
- 32. What small deed could you do to help a needy person this next week?

Don't forget to close in prayer thanking and praising God for what you have learned from His Word.