

## The Weekly Word

Nov 21-27, 2016

Oh my, it is Thanksgiving Week. I am thankful that God left us the legacy of His Word.  
Happy reading...

Grace and Peace, Bill

To hear the Bible read click this link... <http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/audio/>.

### Monday, November 21: Psalm 140- Reflections on the Lord's Prayer...

As I read David's words, a number of the petitions of the Lord's Prayer came to mind...

*Deliver me from evil* (or evil one), was the first to. How deeply in this Psalm David prays for protection and rescue from evildoers.

Then there was all the naming and 'hallowing of the Lord' and the idea of the righteous praising the Lord... *hallowed be thy name* bounced around my thoughts.

In the affirmation of God securing the protection of the poor, I heard the basis for our plea for *daily bread* and God's *will being done on earth as in heaven*

Although very different this Psalm reminds me that the prayer Jesus taught is the 'perfect' prayer as a prayer itself and a model of key elements in most everyone's prayers.

And so I prayed:

*Our Father who art in Heaven,*

*Hallowed be Thy name.*

*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,*

*On earth as it is in heaven.*

*Give us this day our daily bread;*

*And forgive us our debts,*

*as we forgive our debtors.*

*And lead us not into temptation,*

*But deliver us from evil,*

*For thine is the kingdom, and the power  
and the glory forever. Amen.*

### Tuesday, November 22: Psalm 141- Deliver us from evil...

Yesterday I noticed linkages between David's psalm and the Lord's Prayer. Today I noticed another linkage. Verses 3-4 *Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips. Do not let my heart be drawn to what is evil so that I take part in wicked deeds along with those who are evildoers; do not let me eat their delicacies.*

Immediately I heard in my head, *And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil...*

David knows his heart. David knows his propensities. David knows himself and so he prays 'Protect me, Lord, guard my lips... watch over my heart.'

I am afraid I do not pray this prayer often enough...

*Lord, guard my heart, put a gate around my lips... lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. This is my morning prayer today, Lord. This is my morning prayer. Amen.*

### **Wednesday, November 23: Psalm 142- Connection and intimacy are the soil of truest prayer ...**

The setting of this Psalm struck me, *When in a cave...* David is alone. Oh, there may be some supporters surrounding him, but he is likely on the run, hiding out. Maybe it is early in his life when he is fleeing Saul. Maybe it is later when he is fleeing Absalom, we do not know. But he is surely hiding, fleeing, alone, emotionally, if not personally.

I don't know if I have ever been that alone and isolated. But I can project....

Questions, wonderings... what did I do wrong? Why is God out for me? Why are these people against me, hunting me... why, what, and more whys...

Amidst his wondering David opens his heart to pray. *I cry aloud to the LORD; I lift up my voice to the LORD for mercy. I pour out before him my complaint; before him I tell my trouble.*

First I wondered how I would pray in a moment of isolation and fear Would I pray or would I wallow in self-pity?

David prayed. Despite his circumstances David reached out to the Lord. He may have even been angry with the Lord but he still reached out to the Lord.

This is powerful and something I, and all of us, should remember.

Then he was honest... crying for mercy and pouring out complaints. I wonder, was he complaining about the others in his life or about God Himself???

Listening to David and praying these Psalms, prayer is reshaping within me from words spoken to God to words from my heart to God's heart as I live with Him.

Connection and intimacy are the soil of truest prayer...

*Oh, God, I long to live my day and days with You, to know You and be known by You. This is both frightening and invigorating for me. True intimacy does not come easily to me. But I am taking steps to trust You and step into Your open arms.*

*Through Jesus, my Lord, I step forward to You and utter these words. Amen and amen.*

### **Thursday, November 24: Psalm 143- In dark days remember what God has done ...**

This Psalm grows out of love and devotion to the Lord. David's lifelong connection with the Lord continues to bare spiritual fruit in his life.

He is troubled, beset by enemies and he cries out in prayer. In the center of this Psalm David works himself off the ledge by pressing into his faith in the Lord.

*So my spirit grows faint within me; my heart within me is dismayed. I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done. I spread out my hands to you; I thirst for you like a parched land (4-6).*

Even as he wearies and grows faint David falls back on the faithfulness of the Lord throughout the years. He remembers what God has done over the years and then he cries out for the Lord... he thirsts and presses into the Lord.

Such wisdom...

In dark days remember what God has done. And remembering, give thanks to the Lord and nestle into Him. I've been thirsty, not to the extreme David pictures, but I have been thirsty. You can't get it out of your mind. You long for even a sip of water. Spiritually David is parched and he thirsts for the Lord. 'Lord, send me just a sip of Your presence' is David's cry.

Here's the sequence... trouble, remember and nestle in.

When you meet with people filled with spiritual life wisdom, you cannot help but grow and learn. David, the wise man of faith, taught me today.

When life is hard remember what God has done in days past. Recall them, ‘relive’ them mentally, and then respond to God’s love by nestling into the Lord. There, right by his heart, rest, ask, rejoice, live and let the life of God fill you again.

A pretty good life lesson if you ask me...

*Lord, thank You for the wise heart and faith-filled living of David, a man after Your own heart. As he lived with You he has mentored me. I praise You for the saints of old and the faith mentors you have put in my path throughout life. Thank You and bless You, Lord. I pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.*

### **Friday, November 25: Psalm 144- Loved...**

David sees the Lord as active and integral in every part of his life. Warrior David sees the Lord in the strength of His hands the blows of his sword (see verse 1-2). Do I, do you, see Him integral to our lives? If I am a lawyer, do I see the Lord integral to my understanding the legal code, to my ability to defend, prosecute or mediate?

If I am an accountant do I see the Lord as integral to my ability to decipher ledgers and manage the complex markets of today?

As a doctor, teacher, mother, father, carpenter, business owner, cook and so on, do I see the Lord as integral to my work skills and work successes?

Then David muses in verses 3-4: *LORD, what are human beings that you care for them, mere mortals that you think of them? They are like a breath; their days are like a fleeting shadow.*

What a thought... Why God? Why? Why do You trifle with us, mere humans? Why do you give us a second thought?

Other people may be able to go deeper into these verses than I can, but as I ponder these words I land on love. Lord God, You love us and so You care for us. And this is one amazing realization. I am loved by the infinite ,all-wise, all-powerful, creator God. This realization simply blows me away!!!

I am overwhelmed this morning by this realization. I mean, I am having a visceral reaction. I am overwhelmed and bathed in God’s love.

*Blessed be the name of the Lord. He looks down from His perch in Heaven’s glory and cares for me and you and us. Oh my. The Great and Powerful Lord of ALL cares for me...*

*I bow to You, Lord. What can I do but surrender to Your gaze and Your love? Through Jesus Christ I pray. Amen*

### **Saturday, November 26: Psalm 145- Reflecting on parenting...**

Not long ago I was asked some questions about parenting and what the Bible teaches about it. So parenting is on my mind lately, and as I was reading this Psalm verses 3-7 connected with parenting and drew me to the Lord.

*Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty— and I will meditate on your wonderful works. They tell of the power of your awesome works— and I will proclaim your great deeds. They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.*

I realize that these verses were intended to speak to a wider audience than parents, but they certainly seem appropriate to parents.

As parents, if we want to pass our faith along to our children, these verses suggest a few things to do...

Praise the Lord with Your own life... As parents we pass along who we are. Are you a Lord God Almighty worshipper?

Commend and speak of the Lord... bring the things of God into your life and speech. What things do your children hear you say about the Lord? Do they hear you pray? When they ask, can you give answers in their age-appropriate language? Do you share the great things God has done with your children?

Grow in your relationship with the Lord... do you meditate on what God has done and grow in Him?

Celebrate God's goodness... are there ways you and your family celebrate the Lord? Celebration is such a good word. It can be big and planned or it can be spontaneous, singing a song with laughter and joy in thanks to the Lord.

Most of my parenting days are gone, but my adult children can still benefit from seeing these things in my life.

Bottom line, am I living faithfully with the Lord for my children and others to see?

Now here is some food to chew on throughout the day...

*Lord, You are good, great in fact, and I pray that people see my love for You in how I live. I praise You and thank You for life and an opportunity to live my life in a way that is a beacon pointing to You. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

## **Sunday, November 27, 2016, Sunday Worship**

*If any of my thoughts or the Bible readings spark questions send an email reply and I will do my best to answer all questions from people on the list... I will answer personal questions privately; general questions will be answered in a subsequent email installment.*

*If you are reading along with me from the PCOG website you can send questions or request being placed on the weekly email list by emailing Lisa at [office@pcogonline.org](mailto:office@pcogonline.org).*

Click here for a link to my sermons on the web. Sermons are generally posted within 2 days.