

Psalm 110:1-4

¹ The LORD says to my lord:^[a]

“Sit at my right hand
until I make your enemies
a footstool for your feet.”

² The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, saying,
“Rule in the midst of your enemies!”

³ Your troops will be willing
on your day of battle.
Arrayed in holy splendor,
your young men will come to you
like dew from the morning’s womb.^[b]

⁴ The LORD has sworn
and will not change his mind:
“You are a priest forever,
in the order of Melchizedek.”

Acts 2:22-24

²² “Fellow Israelites, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know.

²³ This man was handed over to you by God’s deliberate plan and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men,^[a] put him to death by nailing him to the cross.

²⁴ But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.

Acts 2:29-32

²⁹ “Fellow Israelites, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day.

³⁰ But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne.

³¹ Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay.

³² God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.

Good Morning, My Sisters and Brothers in Christ. I don't know about you, but I am glad to be in the Lord's house this morning. Glad to be able to worship without fear. Glad to be able to offer a prayer to the One who answers prayer. Glad to be able to sing praises to the One who is worthy of all praise. I don't know what you came to do but I have come to praise the Lord.

This is 3rd Sunday and every 3rd and 5th Sundays our youth, our Kingdom Seekers are in charge and on those Sundays I ask God to help me to bring a message that will make sense to their ears; increase their faith; and help them to spread the gospel.

So allow me to explain the two passages in front of us in the simplest way possible. The Psalm 110 passage was written by King David and is one of many Psalms referred to as a Messianic psalm. Meaning it is a psalm, song, dealing with the coming of the Messiah, Jesus the Christ. It is also a psalm referenced in the New Testament. The fact that it was written thousands of years before the birth of Jesus also means that it is prophecy. The Acts 2 passage is a portion of Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost when 3000 or more would hear the gospel message, join the church and be baptized. These two pieces of scripture work together in this way. In Acts 2:34-35 Peter quotes Psalm 110:1. And one of the reasons Peter quotes Psalm 110 is because it was a familiar passage to the Jews who were listening as Peter preached. It was a passage that told them there would come a time when someone would sit on the right hand of the Father.

Let's be honest if I am going to attempt to convince you of something that seems unbelievable then I need to have some evidence that you know to be true as part of my argument. Peter cannot quote from Matthew, Mark, Luke or John because the gospels have not been written so Peter quotes from the song book of the Jewish people, the psalms. That is not unlike what we do....

So our time line is Jesus has been crucified, buried, raised from the death and returned to His Father. The Comforter, which Jesus promised, has come and Peter one of the 11 remaining disciples is following the orders of the Great Commission:

¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."¹

There is significance in the fact that it is Peter who is preaching at Pentecost. For it was Peter who had sworn he would never deny Jesus and yet denied him 3 times. It was Peter who was part of the inner circle and could not stay awake when the Lord Jesus went to pray. And it was Peter who misunderstood the significance of having Jesus wash his feet. Yet here we have Peter using the past to teach about the present in order to encourage folks to think about the future. This is Peter's report, his personal testimony.

With that as background will you pray with me and for me as we raise two questions?

**DO I HAVE A REPORT TO GIVE? AND
WHAT REPORT DOES GOD HAVE ON ME?**

SHALL WE PRAY! Father you have told us in your Word that we are to go and teach your Word, but sometimes we are afraid. Sometimes we don't know what to say and sometimes we are so worried of being rejected that we don't even try. Father we come today asking you to make us bold. Make us bold enough to think about our report, bold enough to practice sharing our report and bold enough to give our report. This we pray in the name of your Son Jesus Christ. Amen and Amen.

**DO I HAVE A REPORT TO GIVE? AND
WHAT REPORT DOES GOD HAVE ON ME?**

¹ <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+28&version=NIV>

Report –as a verb: a spoken or written account of something that one has observed, heard, done or investigated²

I would like you to consider three types of reports that Christians often give. Sometimes our report is in the form of corporate prayer; sometimes in the form of personal testimony and sometimes in the form of song. I am not saying these are the only types of report but the ones we will look at this morning.

Corporate Prayer

When we think of **Corporate Prayer** we think of those prayers that we pray in public. Every Sunday we do four different corporate prayers. **First** is the Prayer at the beginning of the service. We could call this **Opening Prayer**. The purpose of this prayer is to bring us into focus on the Lord. To remind us that the Lord is the reason we are here and should be at the center of this service and everything we do.

Matthew 18:19-20

Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

The **second** is the Prayer of Forgiveness in which we acknowledge our sins aloud and ask God to forgive us.

James 5:16 (NIV)

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.³

The **third** is a prayer for our community.

Ephesians 6:16

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.⁴

² on line dictionary

³ <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=james+5%3A16&version=NIV>

Our **fourth** corporate is prayer of thanksgiving and request for blessing. We are thanking God for the money He has provided and asking Him to bless the money we are bringing back to Him in tithes and offerings. When you engage in any of the forms of Corporate Prayer you are also giving a report. You cannot know all the thoughts and actions of all the people, so you pray first what you know about you and secondly what God has given you through the Spirit.

All of God's children need to know how to pray and how to use prayer as part of their report.

TESTIMONY

Testimony is another form of report used in the church. Someone may wish to argue with you about the meaning of a particular phrase or word in the Holy Scriptures but no one can pose a valid argument for what you say God has done in your life, in the life of your family and to others you know. Sometimes we are reluctant to give our testimony, our report because we don't know what to say. All that is required is to share three things:

- a. Who you were before you met God
- b. How you came to know and trust God
- c. What difference knowing God has made in your life

SONG

Sometimes our report comes to our hearts in the form of a song. Songs we compose ourselves, songs we adapt from the secular world because they express what is in our hearts and finally songs that come to us from Christian songwriters. Those songs become our theme songs for a while for they give our report on how God is moving in our lives and what we wish to do in return.

Peter's sermon, the first recorded in our Bible, was indeed Peter's report.

⁴ <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ephesians+6&version=NIV>

If you look at the entire 2nd chapter of Acts Peter gives testimony to what he had seen; he uses the words of a song to explain what he knows in his heart; he offers prayers for the community and offers them Jesus.

Report has another dimension not only is it a verb, but it can be a noun. Such as, a written assessment of a student's work, progress and conduct.

Imagine for a few minutes that there is a report card for you in heaven. Your report card has **two sections** where you might be graded. The grading scale is simple – but I will repeat it twice.

A – ALL THE TIME
S – SOME OF THE TIME
N – NONE OF THE TIME

Section 1:

³⁷ Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."⁵

QUESTION #1

How are you doing on loving the Lord you God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind?

Remember you must love yourself before you love your neighbor

QUESTION #2

How are you loving yourself?

QUESTION #3

How are you loving your neighbor?

⁵ <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+22%3A37-40&version=NIV>

Section 2

¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."⁶

Question #4

Did you go?

Question #5

Have you made any disciples?

Question #6

Have you brought anyone for the pastor to baptize?

Question #6

Have you learned anything to teach anybody?

My challenge to you this week is to check in with God. Give God 30 minutes of your time – no electronics – just you and God. Ask God to show you your report? Using the passages I have just read ask God how you are doing?

DO I HAVE A REPORT TO GIVE?

Yes, every time I walk into this building I am prepared to give my report. I know what God has done for me and I am not ashamed to tell anyone

AND

WHAT REPORT DOES GOD HAVE ON ME?

I pray that when my report is read the Lord God will say, I have been faithful, I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race and He is pleased with me.

⁶ <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+28%3A18-20&version=NIV>