

Series: Psalm

Title: Make Me Behold Wondrous Things

Text: Ps 119: 17-24

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Psalm 119: 17: GIMEL. Deal bountifully with thy servant, *that* I may live, and keep thy word. 18: Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. 19: I *am* a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me. 20: My soul breaketh for the longing *that it hath* unto thy judgments at all times. 21: Thou hast rebuked the proud *that are* cursed, which do err from thy commandments. 22: Remove from me reproach and contempt; for I have kept thy testimonies. 23: Princes also did sit *and* speak against me: *but* thy servant did meditate in thy statutes. 24: Thy testimonies also *are* my delight *and* my counsellors.

Proposition: We hear David's utter dependence upon the Lord and desire to behold Christ and be strengthened by his Lord and Savior.

THE SPIRIT OF DEPENDENCE

Psalm 119: 17: Deal bountifully with thy servant, *that* I may live, and keep thy word.

The Spirit of God creates a new spirit in us. It is the spirit of utter dependence upon our Lord. David depends upon the Lord to deal bountifully with him. He depends upon the Lord to make him live. He depends upon the Lord to make him keep God's word.

The meaning of this Hebrew word translated "bountifully" is translated diverse ways throughout scripture. It includes everything God's child desires from the Lord.

The word bountifully is used to show the Lord "*serving and doing good, bestowing*" grace to his people. The Lord serves his elect who he redeemed. He ministers every spiritual good to us freely. It is not due to merit in us. He bestows all as the gift of his grace. We are utterly dependent upon the Lord. So we ask the Lord to minister to us and do us good.

The word "bountifully" means "*to wean*", like a child is weaned from the breast. We ask the Lord, "Wean me from my sinful flesh and from this world."

The word means "*to ripen and make yield.*" Numbers 17:8...[Aaron's rod] budded...and bloomed blossoms...and YIELDED almonds." We ask the Lord to grow us and make us yield fruit.

The Lord has dealt bountifully unto his people by giving his only begotten Son. Our Savior dealt bountifully unto his people by giving himself and redeeming us and making us the righteousness of God in him. God continues to give his children abundant grace, dealing bountifully unto us, supplying all our need.

Why did he ask this? "*that I may live, and keep thy word.*" No sinner can live unto God, walking by faith alone in Christ, until the Spirit gives us life and makes us know that Christ has freely redeemed us from the curse of the law. Before then every work is living to self. All is done from selfish motives, for self-righteousness and self-sanctification, for the selfish end of earning heaven.

The law was given by God to be the ministration of death. It declares us guilty and ministers death to all that we think is good in us. But as long as man is under the law, the law only makes him sin more, by looking to it for righteousness rather than Christ. Paul said the law wrought in him all manner of concupiscence. The lusts of his sin nature filled him with pride thinking he was righteous by his deeds.

It is only when Christ creates a new, pure, holy heart and frees us from the fear of bondage and death. It is only when the Spirit reveals Christ has redeemed us that we live unto God. It is only when God makes us know that we are the children of God no matter what happens that we live unto God.

Now, we desire to live and keep his word. Beholding our sin, the Spirit keeps us running to God our Father and Christ our High Priest confessing our need for him to cleanse us. We beg God from our broken heart like David does here--"*Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word.*"

Brethren, this an entirely new attitude, a new spirit, a new heart. It is beholding we are the sinner in need of our faithful Father to deal bountifully unto us that we may live and keep his word. David was born of the Spirit. He had spiritual life. He believed God and sought to honor him all he did. So why does he ask God to make him live and keep his word? It is due to the same reason every child of God does. The very petition declares David knew he yet had a sin-nature.

Be sure to get this. Living unto God is living in absolute dependance on the Lord. God has revealed to us how bountifully he has been to us in his Son. Therefore we desire to honor him in our life by keeping his word. But we walk by faith, depending entirely upon the Lord to deal bountifully with us. And by the Spirit we will continue having this humbled spirit within because God keeps his child knowing we have not yet arrived.

A DESIRE TO BEHOLD CHRIST

Psalm 119: 18: Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

God's grace makes his child continually ask God to show us Christ in his word. No sinner sees spiritual things until the Spirit of God gives us new eyes to behold Christ whose name is Wonderful. Moses face was covered with a vail. Paul said,

2 Corinthians 3: 14...until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. 15: But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. 16: Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away. 17: Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. 18: But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, *even* as by the Spirit of the Lord.

When the Lord gives us new testament eyes then we behold Christ who is Wonderful. Then we behold the wondrous things he has accomplished for us. The saving, conscious-cleansing power, beginning to end, is the good news that Christ has accomplished our redemption from the law of sin and death and translated us into the kingdom of his grace!

After declaring how the Spirit creates us anew in Christ's image and turns us from the glory of the old covenant law to the glory of God's everlasting covenant of grace, Paul said the same way--"*as we have received mercy, we faint not*". It was by the Spirit making us behold Christ that we obtained mercy. It is by the same Spirit of our Lord continually revealing his Son and his wonderful finished work that we faint not!

He keeps us walking by faith by showing us *wondrous things in his word*. We keep begging God to show us one more time. When we see Christ in God's word we see things marvelous, wonderful, surpassing things. They are things impossible to behold but by the Spirit of revelation. But the Spirit has given us the key, Christ Jesus.

David only had the first five books of the bible and probably the book of Job. Imagine David's delight when the Lord opened his eyes to behold Christ in those books.

In God's account of creation, now he beheld pictures of Christ saving his people, where once he only read about how God created all things. Before he only read a story about how the serpent tricked Eve and Adam disobeyed God. He thought, "man, I better stay clear of snakes." Now he beheld the wonder of God's unchangeable grace in God calling the fallen pair to himself and bringing them to confess they had sinned against God. Now in the animal slain in their place he beheld how he died in Adam and the wonder of Christ, the last Adam, bearing the death he deserved. In God making those coats of skins and putting them on Adam and Eve, David beheld the wonder of God robing his people in the righteousness of Christ through God-given faith in Christ.

Now he beheld Christ, Wonderful, in Abel's lamb. He saw Christ, the Seed of the woman. Now, David beheld the wonder of Christ, the Seed of Abraham. He beheld Christ our Shiloh. Now, he knew Christ is the Prophet greater than Moses. The passover lamb, the smitten rock, the manna from heaven, the brazen serpent, the tabernacle, the high priest, the mercy seat, now, all held wonder to him because they all declare Christ whose name is Wonderful!

He had heard of the flood from his youth. One day the Spirit of God made David behold Christ our Ark. He beheld the wonder of God putting us in Christ by divine election as Noah and his family was in the ark. David beheld the wonder of Christ's suffering unto death under the flood of God's justice in place of his people. He beheld the wonder of Christ making all things new when he saw the Lord deliver Noah being to the new earth after the flood. By God's grace, he beheld the wonder of Christ being his unchangeable, never-ending peace, pardon, righteousness, and resurrection in how Noah's sin did not change God's love and grace toward him. David was taught of the Lord that Christ was his salvation same as we are.

Matthew 22: 41: While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42: Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, *The Son* of David. 43: He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, 44: The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? 45: If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? 46: And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any *man* from that day forth ask him any more *questions*.

Brethren, we used to go to the scripture seeking life focused on us but we would not come to Christ that we might have life. Now that God has opened our eyes to behold Christ who is Wonderful, we go to God's word, asking God to open our eyes that we might behold Christ more the same as David did, "*Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.*"

STRANGERS IN THE EARTH

Psalm 119: 19: I *am* a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me.

We depend upon Christ because now we are strangers in this earth. As we come into this world, God is a stranger to us. But now by his grace, we are strangers in the earth.

Ephesians 2:19: Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners [to God] but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

But like the saints of old, by beholding our life is in Christ at God's right hand, we "*confess that [we are] strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*" (Heb 11: 13). This gospel is foreign to this world's religion. We are strangers and pilgrims passing through. As the Spirit moves us to pray this, our Lord Jesus is at God's right hand intercedes for us with God our Father, saying,

John 17: 14: I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 15: I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. 16: They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

David asks God, "*hide not thy commandments from me.*" He is asking the same thing he asked in verse 10,

Psalm 119:10: With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

Believer do you pray this? We pray, "Lord, do not let me be blind to your word. Keep me. Do not let me fall away from Christ and your grace." Our Lord Jesus thanked the Father for hiding these things from the wise and prudent. But he thanked the Father for revealing them unto babes. A babe is one who has been given the spirit David has in this psalm. One made like a little child wanting to please his father but knowing he is a sinner depending entirely upon his father to make him do so.

Take one of these little ones in this congregation. Right now they have a desire to please their father and mother. But they are entirely dependent on father and mother to provide all for them. They are even dependent on their father and mother to teach them how to please them. That is the spirit Christ gives us when he makes us babes, to trust him and be taught of him.

Our Savior is so gracious to give his redeemed understanding. Remember, his apostles after his resurrection? He knew their hearts. They were troubled. They believed not. Scripture says,

Matthew 45: 45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,...

A NEW LONGING

Psalm 119: 20: My soul breaketh for the longing *that it hath* unto thy judgments at all times.

We have a new longing now in our new heart. We long for God's judgments at all times. Brethren, doesn't your soul break as you long for the day that you will walk before God in perfection?

But did David mean the strict letter of God's law? He means he longed for God's judgments in reference to Christ. God makes the believer behold God's righteous servant justifying many in bearing our iniquities. The Spirit makes us hear God's judgment in our new heart that the believer is righteous in Christ.

David was afflicted by God at this time. His heart was breaking for God to shine light unto him. His soul longed for God to renew him to behold Christ and Strengthen him. Look down at verse:

Psalm 119: 25: My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word... 27 Make me to understand the Way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works....81: My soul fainteth for thy Salvation: *but* I hope in thy Word. 82: Mine eyes fail for thy Word, [Christ the Living Word] saying, When wilt thou comfort me?

Make me to know again in my new spirit your judgment declaring Christ has justified me from all my sins. Make me know again in my heart your judgment of how Christ has made me righteous in your sight. My heart breaks to hear your judgment how I am accepted in your Beloved Son. *My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto thy judgments at all times.* Make me to know your judgment in your promise to keep me and deliver me today and forever. Verse 81: *My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word.*

It is only by God making us hear his judgments, declaring in our hearts that we have kept all his commandments in Christ, that we will not err from his commandment to believe on Christ and walk by faith. Those born of God err from his commandments when we turn from the end of them, which is Christ Jesus, who is the end of the law for righteousness. It is by God making us know we are complete in Christ--according to his righteous judgment--that we continue in faith trusting Christ alone.

DEPENDENCE TO BE SAVED FROM THE PROUD

Psalm 119: 21: Thou hast rebuked the proud *that are* cursed, which do err from thy commandments. 22: Remove from me reproach and contempt; for I have kept thy testimonies. 23: Princes also did sit *and* speak against me: *but* thy servant did meditate in thy statutes. 24: Thy testimonies also *are* my delight *and* my counsellors.

God has shown us in his word, "*Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments.*" In religion, the Scribes and Pharisees erred by looking to the Lord's commandments--the letter of the law--for righteousness while rejecting Christ. It made them proud of their own righteousness, and they despised others. They refused to submit to

the righteousness of God, Christ his Son, due to their pride. The Lord rebuked them many times and in the end he cursed them.

Outside of religion, Pharaoh and the Romans, the baser sort that were stirred up against Christ, even princes, erred from the Lord's commandments rejecting Christ, as well. Their spirit was like Pharaoh, "who is the Lord that I should obey him? And submit to Christ as all my Righteousness! Our tongues are our own!" And all of them, in and out of religion, curse God and men. In scripture they rejected Christ, beat Christ, spit upon him, nailed him to the cursed tree. The Lord rebuked them and in the end he cursed them.

Now, David was on the receiving end from those who rejected Christ, he said, "*Remove from me reproach and contempt; for I have kept thy testimonies. Princes also did sit and speak against me: but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes. Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors.*" Our Lord Jesus could say this entirely of himself in perfection. He was reproached and held in contempt by sinners in religion and out and princes also. But he kept God's testimonies in perfection.

Since Christ perfected his people by his one offering, the Spirit makes his people keep the testimonies of our Father when he bears witness in our heart that this is his beloved Son in whom he is well-pleased and commands us to believe on him. Now, we meditate in all God's statutes. Of course we want to obey our Lord's statutes as much as the Lord will enable us. But we meditate in all God's statutes while hearing God's testimonies, his witnesses, of how Christ is our Righteousness in all. And so "*Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors.*" The thing that makes us want to obey God's word is because we know Christ has fulfilled the law for us so that we are righteous in him. And because Christ bore reproach and contempt for us, though he may not remove all the reproach and contempt we receive from the proud, he gives us grace to bear it and keep us looking to him, walking by faith.

Amen!