

July 9 — It's Just "Is-ness!"

READ

Psalm 105-106

Psalm 105:1-4, *"Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works! Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the Lord! Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His face evermore!" (NKJV)*

THINK

Have you ever tried to describe how air became air? It's intrinsic to what it is. It just is. On an even more majestic level, the "is-ness" of God is holiness. He did nothing to obtain it; it's who He is — holy and set apart.

God's holiness is truly magnificent, and that same holiness is accessible to us the moment we accept Jesus as our Savior. In an instant, the label on our life changes from "lost sinner" to "holy saint." Then, when God looks at us, He doesn't focus on the fact that we aren't a perfect parent, that we haven't made the best choices in the dating arena, or that we tried to fudge on a business deal. He chooses to see us as holy and set apart. That is great news!

Does that mean we can then live however we want? No! It means God looks past our sins and sees the righteousness of Christ in us. In response, we choose to live a life that honors God — for our protection and out of respect for His almighty power. So, let's live a life set apart from sinfulness and glorify the name of our Holy God; give Him thanks and "seek His face evermore!"

PRAY

Heavenly Father, I am in awe of You. Thank You for choosing to see me as a reflection of You, regardless of my past. Help me to start seeing myself as being set apart and holy. I want to reflect You in all that I do! In Jesus 'name, Amen.

July 10 — Family Portrait

READ

Psalm 107, 111-114

Psalm 112:1, *“Praise the Lord. Blessed are those who fear the Lord, who find great delight in His commands.”*

THINK

It's said that a picture is worth a thousand words. That is the appeal of looking through photos and reminiscing. We see people and experiences from the past and recall the scenes and emotions from those moments. We can even gaze into an unknown scenario and surmise the feelings and events of the day as we get a sneak peek into the lives of others. Pictures can enable us to take a step back in time and, in a way, be a part of the scene also.

Psalm 112 is a snapshot of what it looks like to be a Christ-follower. The Psalmist paints a portrait of those who fear the Lord, revere, and trust Him. We sense the confidence that comes from a life that not just obeys His commands but truly delights in them. We see the strength and ease of mind that comes from knowing we don't always have to be in control — He is. We view a heart at peace, even in the most difficult times, because we have a healthy reverence for God's almighty power.

In times of uncertainty, when unsettling fear creeps in, remember that if you are a Christ-follower, you are part of His family photo. You never know what the future holds, but you know Who holds it. So, today, be confident in that and create a desire for others to catch a glimpse of Jesus in the portrait of your life.

PRAY

Heavenly Father, Thank You for Your constant guidance and strength. Help me always remember that Your ways are so much better than mine. I will walk in Godfidence today, knowing that You orchestrate my days and direct my path. In Jesus 'name, Amen.

July 11 — Construction Reject

READ

Psalm 115-118

Psalm 118:21-24, *"I thank You for answering my prayer and giving me victory! The stone that the builders rejected has now become the cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing, and it is wonderful to see! This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it."*

THINK

Rejection. What a hurtful word! We've all experienced it in some form. Maybe you were the last kid picked when your peers chose teammates in a scrimmage. Perhaps you were stood up on a date, or your dearest friend suddenly ended the relationship. No matter the what or how it stings, it hits us at the deepest depths of our gut and shakes us to the core. When we're hurt like this, we must remember that Jesus Himself experienced it to an unfathomable extent — His own chosen people, waiting with great hope for the Messiah, rejected Him as their Savior, the Almighty One who takes away the world's sins.

Psalm 118 is as heartfelt as it is prophetic. It was sung on the way up to the temple to worship, praising God for His unending mercy and deliverance. Then in verses 22-23, it suddenly changes topics — it starts talking about failed construction! What?! Likely a reference to an occurrence that happened when King Solomon built the temple, the writer was also prophesying the finished work of Christ!

But why is Jesus called a cornerstone? In ancient structures, the cornerstone was a larger stone that joined two rows together for foundational support — just like Jesus does for us! He binds us to the Father. He connects heaven and earth, life and eternity. He is the supernatural glue that holds our lives together. And God did it! He orchestrated it all, knowing His only Son would face the ultimate rejection on earth! Through Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection, we have all the support we could ever ask for or imagine. Therefore, even in the face of horrific rejection or in the darkest of times, we still must rejoice with each new day — a gift from the Father — and be glad in it because we have a risen Savior who understands our hurt, brings hope to the hopeless and who loves us more than we could ever know!

PRAY

Lord Jesus, Thank You for enduring the ultimate rejection on the cross for my sins and for defeating death to restore my relationship with the Father. You are my Cornerstone, my strength, and my foundation. I will rejoice in this day and be glad in it for Your glory! Amen.

July 12 — The Ultimate Flashlight

READ

Psalm 119

Psalm 119:105, *“Your Word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.”*

THINK

Have you ever found yourself alone in the dark without a flashlight? It can be scary to take even one small step, unsure of where your foot will land. Flashlights illuminate and guide your path as you move forward, sure of your surroundings.

In today’s reading, we find the ultimate flashlight to illuminate the darkness — God’s Word. The Bible is a lamp to our feet as we travel the hilltops and valleys of life; it’s a light to the way God wants us to live each day. It shows us where our steps need to land and the path we should follow as we walk in a personal relationship with Jesus. So, here’s the question: Are you in the dark without a flashlight, or is your path illuminated by biblical truth?

The Bible is your guidebook for life. Hold it tightly and learn from it daily. Seek its truth when you need guidance, clarity, and encouragement. By spending time in His Word, getting involved in the church, and surrounding yourself with the right people, you can discover more of how God lights your path. When you do, you will be guided by the ultimate flashlight in the midst of the world’s darkness.

PRAY

Dear God, Thank You for the light and truth of Your Word that enables me to move through the darkness of this world. May I seek its wisdom daily and allow You to guide and direct my path!
In Jesus ’name, Amen.

July 13 — Nothing Wasted

READ

Psalm 120-121, 123, 125-126

Psalm 126:6, *"Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them."*

THINK

A farmer puts the seed in the ground, waters it, and then waits. From experience, he knows that fretting and impatience can do nothing to hurry the task of seeing it sprout. He trusts that something is happening below the surface and that, in time, it will flourish.

This is similar to our relationship with God. Nothing is wasted that's laid at the Father's feet — it is fertile ground. Our sorrows and failures are like seeds planted and watered with our tears. In due season — either now or in eternity — He will produce life, joy, and beauty from all that you have entrusted to Him. So, right now, drop everything at the foot of the cross and hold nothing back. Remember and marvel at how He has delivered you from a different, difficult season. Place your hope in Him to do it again. Trust with patience that He wants you to flourish and grow!

PRAY

Lord, There are moments when it is hard for me to see a way out of certain situations. When I struggle to understand, let that not stop me from believing and trusting You. I am completely YOURS, and I trust YOU to turn my mourning into dancing and my tears to joy. Amen.

July 14 — Our Hope

READ

Psalm 128-130, 132, 134-135

Psalm 130:7, *“Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with Him is full redemption.”*

THINK

Have you ever hoped for something? Maybe you crossed your fingers, wished on a lucky penny, or even bargained with God in the hope of getting what you so truly desired. If so, you’re not alone! We don’t have to look far to find memes and t-shirts with reminders to “hold on to hope.” But there is an important question we need to ask ourselves: In what or whom are we placing our hope? Is it in the illusion of the things or people we think will give us a better life? Or, is it in the God of the universe who created us with purpose and who loves us completely? You see, hope is not something we wish for; it’s what we gain through a relationship with Christ.

Biblically defined, hope is “the confident expectation of what God has promised, and its strength is in His faithfulness.” That’s a powerful certainty that God will make good on all His promises!

If we look back over our lives, we can see God’s fingerprints. We see marks of His protection and shining moments of His miraculous interventions. When we experience God and witness His faithfulness, it strengthens our hope because we see Him for Who He is... the almighty and sovereign God of the universe, our Rock, and gracious Redeemer. His love for us is beyond comprehension. Therefore, be confident within your hope that God has great things in store for your life. This can give you assurance when the future is yet to be seen.

PRAY

Lord, My hope is in You. Thank You so much for your unfailing love and grace. Help me stay steadfast in Your ways and rest confidently in the assurance that Your promises are true. Amen.

July 15 — Enduring Love

READ

Psalm 136,146-150

Psalm 136:1, *“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures forever.”*

THINK

“His love endures forever.”

This phrase appears a total of 26 times throughout Psalm 136. Why the redundancy? God is saying, “If you remember nothing else, remember this: My love endures forever!”

Why these words? Why is this such an important reminder? Because no matter what we’ve done or will do, no matter our mistakes or the hardships that befall us, there is One who is and always will be with us through it all. The God of the universe loves with unparalleled kindness, mercy, and faithfulness. His is a love that never runs dry.

How can we respond to such incredible depths of love? The answer to this, too, is repeated throughout the psalm: with thanksgiving. We don’t have to wrap our minds around His great love to accept it. He’s already done the work, and now this love is available to us. And something as overflowing as this is meant to be shared. But we don’t have to force it! When we allow ourselves to enjoy Him, to experience His presence and enduring passion, the love will overflow spontaneously.

So, accept that He’s not mad at you, but that He’s madly in love with you, and remember: His love endures forever!

PRAY

Lord Jesus, Allow me to love others the way You love. Help me enjoy and experience more of You today. I praise You and thank You for Your goodness and Your unending love! Amen!