

PSALMS  
THAT HAVE  
IMPACTED  
MY  
LIFE  
Booklet 3

PSALM 23:1

**The Lord Is My Shepherd**  
A PSALM OF DAVID.

- 23 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He leads me beside still waters.  
He restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness  
for his name's sake.
- Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will not fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.
  - You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.
  - Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
forever.

IAN PIKE

24

of David.  
The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof,  
founded it upon the seas  
it upon the rivers.  
The LORD?  
place?

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## Psalms That Have Impacted my life

All scriptures quoted are New King James Version  
unless otherwise noted

### Introduction

The book of Psalms is very unique in the Bible, there is no other book like it even though the Psalms were written by many different people we know that all scripture is inspired by God. All the Psalms were written as songs to be sung normally on special occasions and were used to glorify God. I have titled this booklet “Psalms that have impacted my life”, over my lifetime I have been so impacted by the Psalms because God has used several verses from the Psalms to encourage me at various stages of my life. In my 20s/30s this verse had such an impact on me it is what David said in **Psalm 27:14** “*I would have lost heart unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of God in the land of the living*”. Not only in my younger years but all my life I have experienced the goodness of God they are too many to write about. In my senior years, I experienced the truth of **Psalm 92: 13-14** which says: “*Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of the Lord. They*

*shall bear fruit in old age, they shall be fresh and flourishing*". This is so true in my life, especially after the unexpected loss of my wife of 53 years, and now at the age of 83, I am so thrilled with the Lord and how precious He is to me. I am so encouraged by what the Lord is doing in the church. We must never forget that the word of God is a living word that continues to speak to us. When David was anointed to be king of Israel as a teenager, God said in **1 Samuel 13:14** "*The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart*". We look at the history of David we have little evidence of this however when we read the many Psalms that David wrote we get a glimpse of David's love for his Lord and living His way. David writes about the situations that he faced and how his trust in the Lord shines through. This should be normal behaviour for us as we talk to people about how great the Lord is to us. The anointing that is on our lives should be impacting the people with whom we are in contact. The purpose of this booklet is to inspire you, as you are impacted by the truth of God's word we are changed and we can be impacted every time we read it. The wonderful thing about God's word is because it is alive, it will always speak to us. In this third booklet, I have written about Psalm 42, Psalm 62, Psalm 63, Psalm 91 and Psalm 105. It is my desire and

prayer that this booklet will inspire you to desire to pursue the Lord with everything that you have. The Lord is certainly worth pursuing and He uses His word to encourage us.

## Chapter 1 Psalm 42

This Psalm has such special significance because it is written by the Sons of Korah who spent their life serving in the Temple. The title of the Psalm is “Yearning for God in the midst of distresses” which encourages me because it shows in life whatever you are doing you can experience distress. The last two years of the pandemic have been a time when the god of this world Satan through the media has succeeded in making many people distressed. The first thing that this psalm does is to focus on the only solution to feeling distressed is our relationship with the Lord. **Verse 1** says: *“As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for you O God!”*. This verse gives a very clear picture of the attitude required to deal with the hard times of life. The word ‘Pants’ creates a picture of desperation which challenges me because at times I am tempted just to coast along with my relationship with the Lord and that is exactly what Satan wants to happen in my Christian walk. Because when I am coasting along, I am expecting nothing good to happen in my Christian walk. The psalmist uses the word ‘Pants to describe his attitude toward his God, he desperately desires a close relationship with his Lord

and this is a good example to pursue. There is no substitute for putting God in our lives. As I write this booklet, I have just experienced a special weekend of special meetings to encounter God in the church. God is gracious in allowing us to draw closer to Him. It should not be necessary to have special times to seek the Lord but because of our human weakness, it has been good to “Pant” after the Lord for an extended time. **Verse 2** says: “*My soul thirsts for God, for the living God*”. The soul is that part of us that works things out and chooses the way to live, when we fill our soul (Mind) with the things of God it is easier to seek God when we experience the pressures of life. This is something that I have learned over my life loving God is not like a “Tap” that you can on or off when you feel like it. When we turn our back on God and allow other things to dominate our life it takes repentance and perseverance to get back close to the Lord again. The verse commences with “My soul thirsts for God” this is declaring his personal preference and that his desire is for God. I desire God in a meaningful way in my life, this is important because I am responsible for my actions. It is good to wake up in the morning and start to bless the Lord as the first thing of the day. The second thing this verse states is so powerful for the psalmist thirsts for the living God. This is such a great



statement; God is alive in me! The truth of this brings such peace and comfort to me when we serve a living God, I am so encouraged by my Christian experience because it is a living one that gives new life all the time. May we in the season of our life be focussed and satisfied by the living God.

## Psalm 42 Part 2

There have been times in my life when I have been tempted to believe that if my circumstances were different then I would feel better and enjoy a better life. I have learned over my life despite the circumstances of life there have been seasons of good times and seasons of what I would have preferred not to experience. The Bible teaches us in **1 Corinthians 10:12** that all temptations/ difficulties we experience are not unique but are common to mankind. The sons of Korah were no different even though they lived and worked in the temple environment they still suffered times that were not pleasant. **Verse 3** says: *“My tears have been my food day and night, while they say to me ‘Where is your God?’”*. From this verse, it is very clear that the Psalmist was experiencing something not very pleasant because it was affecting his day and night. You would have thought that being in the temple environment there would be people who would go out of their way to comfort the Psalmist. But that was not the case, the people who should have been encouraging him only made it worse by saying to him “Where is your God?”. This is the response you would expect from the ungodly, not from his fellow

temple workers. I am reminded that when Job was tested for his righteousness his friends came and would not accept that he was being tested because of his righteousness but believed he was being punished for his hidden sins. Sometimes it is easy to pass judgement on situations that we do not completely understand. That is why the Bible is very clear in its teaching that we are to love one another. **Verse 4** says: *“When I remember these things, I will pour out my soul within me. For I used to go with the multitude; I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept a pilgrim feast”*. Unfortunately, the Psalmist’s response is so common amongst people, when the pressures of life come instead of pressing harder into the Lord, they drift away from Him. People are misled into believing that they can fight the battle in their strength instead of relying upon the greatness of our God. The more you retreat from God the greater the problem will seem to be and this is where we struggle to go to the Lord, this is where you need good friends to fight on your behalf and declare God’s victory in the circumstances. **Verse 5** says: *“Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance”*. The time comes when we have to be honest with ourselves

and tell ourselves the way that we are thinking is not correct and declare the greatness of God in our lives. The Psalmist told himself to “Hope in God” and that is a good confession to make because it does not matter the circumstance, we find ourselves in God is the answer to our problems. Also, we are to rest in His greatness because there is no situation that is impossible for Him to change. I am glad that I belong to a God who loves and provides for me in all the seasons of my life.

## Psalm 42 Part 3

I am encouraged by the psalmist that although he was feeling the pressures of life, he turned his focus on the source of his answer - his God. There is a danger when we are experiencing these pressures that we can feel that we are a victim, not an overcomer. We are encouraged by the words of Jesus in **John 16:33** which says: “*These things I have spoken to you that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world*”. It is so good to remember that Jesus has overcome the world, we are living on the victory side and while there will be times that are not pleasant to experience, that is when we have the opportunity to experience His peace. In **Verse 6** the psalmist says: “*O my God, my soul is cast down within me; therefore, I will remember you from the land of Jordan, and from the heights of Hermon, from the hill Mizah*”. While the psalmist does not explain the significance of these places it is obvious that the psalmist had experienced the goodness of God in those places. This is something that we need to remind ourselves continually of the times that God has stepped in and blessed us. The chorus of an old hymn says: “Count your blessings

name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done”. Recently the automatic transmission on my car failed, while I had sufficient funds put aside for emergencies I was so blessed when someone gave me \$1000 towards the cost of the repairs. I was also overwhelmed by the number of people who offered to take me to church while the car was being repaired. In **Verse 7** the Psalmist tells of the greatness of the situation he was facing: *“Deep calls unto deep at the noise of your waterfalls; all your waters and billows have gone over me”*. This is where the truth of God’s word is such an encouragement. **1 Corinthians 10:13** says: *“No temptation has overtaken you except such is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond that you are able to bear, but with the temptation will also make a way of escape, that you may be able to bear it”*. I must admit that there have been times when I have told the Lord that I did not know that I was that strong in Him. We are also encouraged by **Philippians 4:19** which says: *“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus”*. This is something that the psalmist believed because he said in **Verse 8** *“The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night His song shall be with me - a prayer to the God of my life”*.

It is so precious when we have such a personal relationship with the Lord that we know in all situations He is with us. And not only with us but has provided and given us the strength that we need in all situations. May we never be overcome by adverse situations but use them as an opportunity to see the greatness of our God in our lives. We serve such a wonderful Saviour who not only loves us but protects us in all the situations of life.

## Psalm 42 Part 4

As we come to the last section of this Psalm the Sons of Korah express the challenge we face as we follow the Lord. While they were serving in the temple regularly it did not stop the battle of the mind. The Psalmist is very clear that he brings his doubts and fears to the Lord. It is so important to understand that the Lord is interested in us no matter how we feel. When we come to the Lord with our doubts and uncertainties it allows Him to encourage us and lead us into victorious thinking. When we talk amongst ourselves it gives the enemy of our soul to speak discouragement to us and when our eyes are not on the Lord it is easy at times to believe the lies of Satan. **Verse 9** says *“I will say to God my rock, ‘Why have you forgotten me?’ ‘Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?’*. Listen to how the psalmist refers to his God, he calls Him My rock, this shows he has a strong foundation and confidence in his God. The longer you are committed to someone the more you trust them. I am reminded of how when I first started to date Barbara, I was guarded about what I shared with her. However, after many years of marriage, there were no hidden secrets, I was



completely open with her because I completely trusted her. The same is with our relationship with the Lord, the more time you spend with Him the more you trust Him. **1 Peter 5:7** says *“Casting all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you”*. This is a wonderful experience when we learn to trust the Lord. **Verse 10** says *“As with a breaking of my bones, my enemies reproach me, while they say all day long ‘Where is your God?’* This is a warning to us not to pass judgement on people and their situations because it is not our responsibility to pass judgement but to encourage people. Job’s friends were convinced that the suffering that he was experiencing was because of hidden sins and bad behaviour, while the fact was the exact opposite was happening. He was tested because he was righteous and continued to be righteous in his adverse situation. This is why there is no substitute for a close relationship with the Lord. **Verse 11** says *“Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; For I shall yet praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God”*. When you start to thank the Lord for His goodness in your life and remember how He has helped you over the years. Then the doubts and fears disappear in the light of the greatness of our God. There is a great reward when we spend time praising

our Lord and Saviour because we can always find God when we are experiencing the hardships of life. It is so good to understand no matter that the circumstances we are experiencing that our God does not forsake us, but gives us the ability to be a conqueror as we continue to praise Him.

## Chapter 2 Psalm 62

As we come to this new Psalm I am impressed by the title of this Psalm of David, “A calm resolve to wait for the salvation of the Lord”. We live in a world where the pace of life seems to be getting faster and faster. We have so many instant food products, people are pressured to buy things that put them in debt which causes so much anxiety. There is a danger that we can approach God the same way and when we do, it is not a relationship we are looking for but instant pleasure. **Verse 1** says “*Truly my soul silently waits for God, from Him comes my salvation*”. I can only be silent when I have no doubts and am confident in my relationship with my Lord. Being silent is the fruit of many years of learning to trust my Lord and Saviour. We experience great peace when we are not moved by our circumstances because we have learned to trust in the integrity of God. David had a great trust in the Lord who he had experienced as a teenager looking after his father's sheep. He used the lonely times to play his harp and worship the Lord without limit. This is why David was calm as he waited for his God to answer. Interestingly, David commences this Psalm with the word ‘Truly’, he wanted to make certain that this was

not just words but was a true statement of how he lived his life. When difficulties were being experienced his first and only response was to God for the answer, he did not go around seeking the opinion of others because he knew from experience that his salvation only came from the Lord. Then David declares in **Verse 2** “*He only is my rock and salvation, He is my defence, I shall not be greatly moved*”. David had learned that God was the only answer to life's problems and it was his relationship with the Lord that was the answer. When David was going to fight Goliath, King Saul wanted him to use Saul's armour but he would not use something that he had not successfully used before. So, he relied on what God had given him and had used before when looking after the sheep. This is a great challenge to me not to rely on my understanding which is the way the god of this world wants me to respond. **Proverbs 3:5** reinforces this truth “*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding*”. We live in a world where we are encouraged to live by our opinion because our opinion is so important and this is a lie of Satan and could not be further from the truth. David not only declares that the Lord is his rock (The foundation of which I build my life) and his salvation, but He was his defence. He was so committed to

trusting the Lord for his life. It is so important to come to the unshakeable conclusion that our lives are in the hands of our Saviour. Because of that unshakeable trust in his Lord and Saviour, he then states what seems so obvious “I shall not be greatly moved”. The outworking of a close relationship with Jesus is just that. As I look back over my lifetime of living with Jesus, although I have experienced many severe trials today, I live with a calm resolve with my Lord and saviour Jesus Christ.

## Psalm 62 Part 2

As we continue with this psalm it is interesting to remember that David commences with his total trust in the greatness of his God. Then he highlights that he is being attacked but these attacks cannot succeed because he trusted in the Lord. **Verse 3&4** says: “*How long will you attack a man? You shall be slain, all of you, like a leaning wall and a tottering fence. They only consult to cast him down from his high position; they delight in lies; they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly*”. I am so encouraged by the way David handles his problems, he poses this question ‘How long will you keep trying when you know the outcome?’ The psalmist warned his enemy what they were doing in trying to attack him was futile because with the help of his God he would always be triumphant. This is a great lesson for us to learn, when Jesus died on the cross and rose again on the third day destroyed the power of Satan forever. The only power that Satan has is that which we give him. **1 Peter 5:8** warns us “*Be sober, be vigilant because your adversary the Devil walks about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour*”. Remember that Satan can make a lot of noise and if we take note of that noise then we can

be tempted to believe that he has power over us when he certainly does not have any power over us. Because Satan was defeated by Jesus. I am so encouraged by the descriptive language of the psalmist, he describes his enemy as a 'Leaning wall and a tottering fence', the first time they experience pressure they will fall, and also "They delight in lies ". We live in a world where the media is so little truth and most reports are biased and trying to convince people to live ungodly lives. Also, Social Media is the same so we need to be on guard about where we get our information from. This is why it is so important to live close to the Lord and take time to talk to Him all the time. The psalmist reminds us to pause and take a good look from God's perspective of what is going on in the world. **Verse 5** says: "*My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him*". There are times when we have to give ourselves a good talking to, we must tell ourselves to live the correct way, always reminding ourselves of the goodness of God. Look at what David declared in **Psalm 16:8** "*I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved*". This is a good habit to develop, to always remind ourselves how good God is in our lives. When our focus is on Him then we cannot be impacted by the world and its mess and problems. It is so good to

belong to the Lord and live with the calmness that God only gives.



## Psalm 62 Part 3

It is so encouraging to look at David's belief in his God. Because he said in **Verse 6** "*He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defence, I shall not be moved*". The truth of this verse is paramount to the way that we live our Christian life. We live at a time where we are tempted by many seeming options on how to fulfil our life. We can be caught up with the many pressures of life and if we are not careful, we find ourselves drifting away from that pure relationship with the Lord. There is a constant battle with 'I' wanting to be in control, this is something that must never forget and stay humble. The Psalmist said, "The Lord is my only rock", this is something that we have to deal with daily. We must constantly be on guard about not letting other things become more important to the way that we live. The Psalmist refers to God as His rock and his salvation, in bible times all structures of note were built upon a rock foundation. This is what Jesus said in **Matthew 7:24-27**, He likened the people who lived by the word of God to build on the rock and when the storms of life came the house was safe because it was built on the rock. This is why it is so important to have a daily time of devotion with the

Lord. The psalmist goes on to declare that “God is his defence”, This means that he was defended by God, which is something that we rarely talk about but the realisation of this brings such peace to the way that we live. Today there is so much going on in the world and is getting worse all the time, there are reported one disaster after another, and the world is getting darker all the time. This why it is so important to follow **Hebrews 12:2** which says, “*Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith*”. In **Verse 7** the Psalmist added that God was his refuge and his refuge. Again, it is so good to be reminded of the greatness of our God. When we understand that He is our strength and protection then we can live a life knowing my God is stronger than anything that we could face. It is so good to wake up each morning knowing our lives are in the hands of a strong God. **Verse 8** tells us, “*Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him, God is a refuge for us*”. The psalmist keeps on reminding us to trust in God at all times, sadly when I look back at my life there have been times when I choose to coast along and not to be passionate about my Lord. Those times were not the best times of my life and I am so thankful for His great salvation and His persistence in encouraging me to be the man of God who I was called to be. We are encouraged by

the Psalmist to “Pour out your heart before Him”, this is how we experience the greatness of God in our lives. When we choose to be passionate about our God, we experience the reward of putting God first in our lives.

## Psalm 62 Part 4

As we come to the final section of this Psalm it is good to remind ourselves of the reason David wrote it, the title of the psalm is “A calm resolve to wait for the Salvation of God”. This suggests that there will be times when God’s salvation is not obvious. When we experience those times that is when our unshakeable trust in God takes over and we live knowing that we will see the goodness of God in the land of the living. David makes it very clear that we should not put our trust in man’s ability and that we should set a good example for others. **Verses 9-10** say: “*Surely men of low degree are a vapour, men of a high degree are a lie; if they are weighed in the balances, they are altogether lighter than vapour. Do not trust in oppression, nor vainly hope in robbery; if riches increase do not set your heart on them*”. It is so good to be reminded of the futility of mankind because there is a grave danger that we can be tempted to live by our own strength. David makes it very clear that living by self is not God’s way of living. We understand that when we are born again that we become a new person in Christ. (**2 Corinthians 5:17**) This is where the god of this world (Satan) is so unrelenting in trying

to convince us to live a life that is pleasing to ourselves. This happens in so many subtle ways and if our continual focus is not on God then we will find it easy to drift away and live a life that is pleasing to ourselves. We live in an age when we're pleasing ourselves is the way of the world and we must be aware of this and not live by that standard. It is so important that we trust in the Lord and that we are not moved by the standard of the world. **Verse 11** says: "*God has spoken once, twice I have heard this; that power belongs to the Lord*". The truth of this verse is sometimes lost if we are affected by the events of the world, while at times it may seem dark, despite this we can see God in all facets of the way that we live. God says in **Psalm 46: 10** "*I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth*". There is great calmness and confidence in the way that we live when we understand that God is in control. This only happens when we choose to put God first and live God's way. **Verse 12** says: "*Also to you, O Lord, belongs mercy; for you render to each one according to his work*". It is so good to be reminded that the Lord is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (**Hebrews 16:6b**) There is nothing that we do that is not noticed by God, it is a fallacy to think that we can do things that God does not know about. It is also so good to be reminded that God is in

control of our life and He rewards us as we diligently seek Him. This Psalm has reinforced the truth that there is a great reward for choosing to live God's way.

## Chapter 3 Psalm 63

The title of this psalm of David is “Joy in the fellowship of God”, and it was written by him when he was hiding in the wilderness of Judah because he was being chased by King Saul. This is very interesting because it is easy to have confidence in the Lord when everything is going all right, but David took time when he was experiencing a time when things were not nice to declare his trust in the Lord. This is a great example for us because now is always the best time to declare the greatness of God in our lives. **Verse 1** says: “*O God, you are my God; early will I seek you; my soul thirsts for you in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.*” When David was in a place not of his choosing which was very threatening and dangerous the first thing, he established was his relationship with the Lord. The importance of a personal relationship with the Lord cannot be overstated. You cannot be Godly just because the people you mix with are Godly, we need to be reminded that God has no grandchildren, only sons and daughters. Having a personal relationship is a choice that we make and does not come through attending church, This is why

we must be born again to be a follower of Jesus because you cannot add Christian values to the way that we live and then call ourselves a follower of Jesus. David not only declared that God was his God, but he also declared that ‘Early will I seek Him’. His first port of call was his God, he knew that God was his only answer. We live in a world this concept is so foreign as to why we regularly attend church. The world has believed Satan’s lie that living the way of the world can give them satisfaction and choose to be entertained by the world. This is why we are warned in **1 John 2:15** “*Do not love the world. If anyone loves the world the love of the Father is not in him*”. David is very clear about where his source of living comes from. We must also understand that it is so important that we always put God first in our lives. David is very graphic in describing his need for his Lord, he said ‘My soul thirsts for you and my flesh longs for you ‘. Here David makes it very clear that not only does he wants his spirit to be satisfied by the Lord but also wanted to experience God everywhere he went. This means that we are to take the Lord with us everywhere we go - we do not have any part of our life where Jesus is not welcome and feels comfortable there. This is something that we need to be very clear about, we must take Jesus with us in all parts of the way that we live.



Now is the time to experience the Joy there is when we have fellowship with the Lord. This is the best time to be captivated by the love of God to us. We are precious in His sight and He has provided for us a joyous and victorious life no matter what the circumstances of life we find ourselves in.

## Psalm 63 Part 2

It is so good to be reminded that David wrote this psalm when he was under attack from King Saul who was trying to kill him. It is so easy to speak of the greatness of God when we are experiencing His blessing and we are enjoying life. However, it is a test of our relationship with the Lord when we seem to be under pressure and life is not turning out as we thought it would. The Bible declared that “David was a man after God’s own heart” and we see the evidence of this in this psalm as David was not enjoying life. When the pressures of life come, we have a choice, we either draw close to the Lord or distance ourselves from Him and try to live by our strength. I have lived both ways and have decided that there is no satisfaction in pleasing one's self. The only way to excel is to press closer to the Lord. **Verse 3&4** is quite profound because David says: *“Because your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise you, thus will I bless you while I live; I will lift up my hands in your name”*. **NLT** *“Your unfailing love is better to me than life itself, How I praise You! I will honour you as long as I live, lifting my hands to you in prayer”* What captures my attention is that David was not going to

wait until his circumstances had changed before he started to declare the greatness of his God. His relationship with his God was not subject to his circumstances and this is a great lesson to learn and live by. I can tell you from experience there is nothing better than to start the day by reminding ourselves of His goodness in our life and how glad we are that we belong to him. There is one thing that I know is true and that is we are a product of the choices that we make. David declared God's loving kindness was better than life, he was not concerned that King Saul could try to kill him, and he wanted to use every day as an opportunity to express his love to his Lord. And he also declared the way that he would do this was by what he was saying. There is no substitute for us to open our mouths and keep praising the Lord. He did not stop there he also blessed the Lord by lifting his hands to honour the Lord. I think this is an area where we can improve, we lift our hands at church but are reluctant to do this at home. **Verse 5** says: " *My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise you with joyful lips*". 'Marrow and fatness' is not a modern-day expression but was used as an expression of being very healthy, David was declaring that his relationship with his Lord was very healthy and that was a good reason to celebrate the

goodness of His God. This is something to do that is very rewarding, I am so glad that I belong to Jesus and that He is my reason for living. I have learned in all seasons of my life there is so much fulfilment when I joyfully praise the Lord because He is worthy of all our praise.

## Psalm 63 Part 3

As we continue with this psalm it is good to be reminded of its title ‘Joy in the fellowship of God’. We live in a time when it takes great resolve to have fellowship with the Lord. At times when the pressures of life seem to be overwhelming and if we are not aware of what is happening, we can be tempted to just go through the motions of loving God instead of pressing into God. Because we are a product of our choices let us always choose to put God first. The Psalmist tells of one of his servants having fellowship with the Lord. He uses his time at the end of the day to reflect on God’s goodness in his life, in **Verse 6** he says: “*When I remember You in my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches*”. Notice the Psalmist says ‘When’ this indicates that there have been times when he did not meditate on the Lord at night, but he did not dwell on those times, he recalled how different it was when he did. This is a good lesson to learn, keep reminding ourselves of the good times we have had with the Lord, not of anything else. Because it is our choice to govern what occupies our thinking. The Psalmist then goes on in **Verse 7** to explain why it is so good to control your thoughts at night to reflect on His

goodness. “Because *you have been my help, therefore in the shadow of your wings I will rejoice* “. Sometimes we experience the goodness of God in our lives so often that we forget how blessed we are. I am reminded of the chorus of a well-known hymn, “Count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done!” Remembering the blessings of God is a choice that we all make, it is not an automatic response. Controlling what we think about is a daily battle that never stops, and because this is an ongoing battle we must always be on guard and choose to reflect on God’s goodness in our lives. The Psalmist uses a beautiful metaphor to describe his fellowship with his Lord, ‘In the shadow of your wings’. It is important to recognise that shadows only form when the sun is shining. What the Psalmist is saying because God’s light is so bright, he is comfortable in the shadow of the Lord's covering. Then the Psalmist declares another of his ways with his Lord that he uses to have fellowship with Him. He says in **Verse 8** “*My soul follows close behind you; your right hand upholds me* “. He makes certain to have fellowship, we understand from this that it was a choice that he made. This is a challenge that we face all the time because we want to please ourselves and we only overcome this by submitting to the Lord. This is

something that the Psalmist did constantly, not just following the Lord but closely following Him. When he did this, he experienced God's right hand supporting him. It is so hard to describe what being supported by God feels like, except to say it is a joy to have fellowship with Him.

## Psalm 63 Part 4

As we come to the last part of this psalm, it is interesting that this is the only time we find David talking about his enemy. All the other verses were about his relationship with his Lord. This shows that his relationship with his Lord was his priority. This is such good advice because at times we can be tempted to be taken up with the darkness of the world. David's attitude is so good to copy reflect upon and imitate in how we are to live. David used his adverse situation to strengthen his relationship with his Lord. This is the exact opposite of how Satan wants us to act. Over the years I have come across people who only want to talk about the problems they are facing which never seem to be happing with their Christian walk. How David approached his situation is so encouraging to me and I have chosen to think about the greatness of my God. When we discipline ourselves to look at our situation through the eyes of victory that Jesus gives, we can be calm and live a peaceable life. **Verses 9-11** *“But those who seek my life, to destroy it, shall go into the lower parts of the earth. They shall fall by the sword; they shall be a piece for the Jackals. But the King shall rejoice in God, everyone who swears by Him glory; but*



*the mouths of those who speak lies shall be stopped!”.* It is so important to put everything in its right perspective, the power of Satan was defeated by Jesus when he died and rose again on the third day. This is something that we need to keep reminding ourselves of continually. We serve a victorious Lord and Saviour who calls us His friends. Living with this understanding brings such peace to the way that we live. Notice that David was so clear when he said that his enemy had no power over him and this is how he lived his life. He knew the greatness of his God through his worship of the Lord as a teenager. He could say that he had killed a lion and a bear who attacked his sheep because God was with him and he also killed the giant Goliath. This happened because he had a daily experience with his Lord, so he was not afraid of any problems that may arise in his life. I am so encouraged by what he said in **Verse 11** “*But the king shall rejoice in God* “. David was very clear in his trust in his Lord and this is such a good example to follow. The Lord is worthy of all praise and I am thankful that I have the opportunity to encourage other people to keep praising the Lord. The Lord is so worthy of our praise and when we choose to praise Him there is nothing in our lives that should stop us from applying this truth. While we live

in a fallen world it is good to know that we do not have to be affected by it.

## Chapter 4 Psalm91

I am encouraged by the title of this psalm “Safety in abiding in the presence of God”. This is such a profound truth that unfortunately many people never understand and because of this never make the effort to live in God’s presence. **Verse 1** says: “*He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty*”. **NLT** “*Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty*”. This verse starts with an invitation, not a command and this demonstrates how God has given everyone free will, we are not puppets of God. This is why we make Him so happy when we choose to accept His love and follow Him because we want to. This verse also reinforces the truth that you cannot add being a Christian to the way that you may live - you are either born again or you are not, there is nothing in between. This is the area of your life in which Satan attacks regularly. The verse commences with the statement “He who dwells (lives)” which defines the people who benefit from God’s provision. There is a danger that when we read one of God’s promises we think that we can receive it without meeting the condition of God’s promise. I like what

the **NLT** says: “Those who live in the shelter of the Most High”, I love this name of God “Most High”, it clearly says that God is overall so we have nothing to fear when we live God’s way. It describes the presence of God as “The shadow of the Almighty”, there is no shadow without a light to cast the shadow. This means God’s light is above every situation we face and we can take great comfort in the shadow of the Almighty. To understand the greatness of this shadow, when the Angel said to Mary that she would give birth to Jesus, she asked how could this happen. The Angel said to her “And the power of the Highest will overshadow you” (**Luke 1:35**). It is good to pause at this moment and try to comprehend the greatness of the shadow of the Most High. **Verse 2** says: *“I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and fortress; My God in Him will I trust’.* **NLT** *“This I declare of the Lord; He alone is my refuge, my place of safety; He is my God, and I am trusting in him”.* We are living in a world in which there is so much uncertainty if we take our eyes off the Lord. I am so encouraged by the Psalmist for he says: “God alone is my refuge” when we believe this it takes away all uncertainty that the god of this world would like us to believe, but we know that he is a liar and we can turn to the truth of God’s word for comfort. This is the greatness of our God for He knows the end from

the beginning so He can provide for us what we need in every situation that we face. I want to remind you of the title of this psalm “Safety in abiding in the presence of God”. There is no better time than now to make every effort to put away all distractions so that we can rest in the divine provision of the Lord.

## Psalm 91 Part 2

As we continue with this psalm, we see the continuing benefit of abiding in the presence of the Lord. **Verse 3** says: “*Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler and the perilous pestilence!*” This is a definite statement, not a suggestion – it is something that will take place and we can take great comfort from this fact. The first thing it talks about is being protected from the snare (trap) of our enemy. The interesting thing about snares/ traps is that for them to be effective they must be hidden from our view. This means we are not aware of how many times the Lord has saved us from a dangerous situation, but He is doing it all the time. It is good to be reminded of our ever-present protection from the Lord, then the verse goes on that He also protects us from things that are visible to us. I am so glad that being in the presence of the Lord gives us unlimited protection in all situations. **Verse 4** says: “*He shall cover you with His feathers, and under His wings, you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler*” **NLT** “*His faithful promises are your armour and protection*”. This is a very interesting verse because it declares the difference between the Attributes of God and His nature. A bird's wing is

made up of many feathers which together produce the strength and effectiveness of the wing. God has many attributes - Peace, Longsuffering, and Power, just to name a few and this verse reminds us that we are covered by God's many attributes and that should be a comfort to us. Then the verse goes on to say that we can take refuge in the nature of God, He does not change so when we chose to live God's way there is supernatural protection for us to enjoy. The final point this verse says is that we are protected by Good's faithful promises to us. There are so many promises that are available to us so that the enemy cannot affect the way that we live. **Verse 5-6** says "*You shall not be afraid by the terror by night, nor of the arrow that flies by day, nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday*". These verses declare in specific detail how God protects us when we abide in the presence of the Lord. We have a good example of this over the last two years with COVID-19, sadly many Christians have allowed themselves to be overcome by the constant bombardment by the media and are fearful. God's presence has been available to us all the time and I am so thankful for it. I have found a great time to reinforce what I believe. **Verses 7-8** say "*A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it*

*shall not come near to you. Only with your eyes shall you look and see the reward of the wicked”.* These verses remind us it does not matter how big the problems seem to be if we keep abiding in His presence then they will not affect us, God’s protection is greater than any attack by Satan. Finally, when God’s punishment is given, we will not be touched by it, we will only know about it because of the greatness of our relationship with the Lord.



## Psalm 91 Part 3

This next section of the Psalm gives the detail of the protection of the Lord to all who have chosen to live close to Him. **Verse 9** says *“Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your habitation!”* This verse defines our relationship with the Lord it is not something that we do occasionally, there is no such thing as a part-time Christian, sadly many people who attend church have believed the lie of Satan that it is all right to attend church when it is convenient. I am constantly reminded of **2 Corinthians 5:17-18a** which says *“Therefore if anyone is in Christ (Born again), he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God”*. I am saddened by the number of people who never became a new creation and never experienced “Now all things are of God”. As I look back over my lifetime, I am humbled by the greatness of my God that I have experienced continually. You cannot say too much about the Lord when you have made Him your habitation. There is so much comfort and satisfaction when you live that way, these last 8 years of living without my wife are a good example of this – over this time I have experienced s much from

the Lord. He has become so precious to me and everyone who has made the same choice experiences the same. **Verse 10** says “*No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague shall come to your dwelling*”. We need to remember that when Israel sinned against God, He sent a plague to punish them, however, we must be very certain that God does not punish us for our sins because He has already punished His Son Jesus on the cross for our sins. **Verses 11-12** are very interesting for they say “*For He shall give His angels charge of you to keep you in all your ways, they shall bear you up in their hands, lest you dash your feet against a stone*”. These are the words that Satan quoted to Jesus when he was tempting Him to use the scripture for His benefit. This verse is very conditional and Satan misused the scripture and this shows us how easy it is to try and use scripture in a way it was not intended to be used. This scripture only applies to those who have made the Lord their habitation to those people who are living with Jesus. Over the years I have seen people quoting scriptures out of context and are disappointed when what they are declaring does not come to pass and then they blame God and not themselves. There is great danger when we are not wholly following the Lord, we then find other things more important than God and His ways. This psalm

from verse one clearly defines the attitude we must have towards God to receive the benefits of being close to Him. It is a wake-up call for us to assess our relationship with the Lord. It is also important to understand there is no substitute for being wholehearted in our relationship with the Lord because there are so many benefits when we do!

## Psalm 91 Part 4

As we come to the final section of this Psalm talks about the reward that comes to the person who ‘Dwells in the secret place of the Most High’. It is good to remember that God is a good God and if He looks after the sparrow and we are much more valuable than the sparrow then it should be no surprise to us that He blesses us in all aspects of our life. **Verse 14** says *“Because He has set His love upon me, therefore I will deliver him, I will set him on high because he has known My name “*. Jesus said the greatest commandment was in **Mark 12:30** which says *“And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength “*. And Jesus also said in **John 13:34** *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you love one another”*. From these verses, we understand that God places great importance on us loving Him and one another. As we go back to this psalm it says the reward of us loving Him is that H will deliver us. This is a great comfort to us knowing that the enemy of our soul (Satan) is defeated and we are protected from the attacks that he makes on us. The verse goes on to say

that the Lord will ‘Set us on high’ - in bible times the superior place to be was high ground because it was easily defended. This verse is a reminder that we have God’s protection in all situations. **Verse 15** says “*He shall call on me and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honour him* “. This verse is very comforting because we know that when we call upon the Lord, He will answer us. I take great comfort in this because His answer is not conditional except for living close to Him which is the basis of this psalm. This means even though I do not see the answer when I expect God is committed to answering my call. Next, the Lord goes on to say that He is with us in times of trouble, we can rest in the fact the Lord does not leave us in these times, and not only is He with us but He promises to deliver us. Also, He says that He will honour us and I desire to be honoured by Him. **Verse 16** says “*With long life, I will satisfy him, and show him my salvation* “. The first important thing to note is that a ‘Long Life’ is a reward when the journey we experience must be one of great fulfilment or it would not be a reward. The second thing is that ‘Long Life’ is not a number but a journey with the Lord and according to **Psalm 92:14** it is a time of being fruitful and being fresh, which means during the long that you live, you live in the freshness of now

which comes from the Lord each morning. This is what I am experiencing the older I live the more excited I am about what I see the lord doing, it is good to have memories but that is what they are and should not be part of how we live now, for we live in the blessing of His salvation.

## Chapter 5 Psalm 105

Psalm 105 is unique because it is based on a Psalm written by David after the Ark of God was transported to Jerusalem for the first time. This is also recorded in 1 Chronicles 16 and is called “David’s song of thanksgiving”. Before we look at the Psalm it would be good to look at the background to understand its significance. The Ark of God was wrongly taken from the temple at Shiloh and taken as a ‘Goodluck’ charm into battle and was captured by the Philistines. God punished them with tumours so they sent the Ark of God back to Israel on the back of a cart and it stayed at Kirjath Learim for about 50 years and nobody including Samuel and King Saul desired that it be returned to the temple where it belonged. After David was king for 7 years, he decided to build a tent tabernacle in Jerusalem and bring the Ark of God to it so that everyone could experience the presence of God. However, David did not consult the Lord as to the correct way to transport the Ark of God to Jerusalem. So, David put it on a cart just like the Philistines and when the animal stumbled and it looked like the Ark of God would fall from the cart, Uzzah put his hand on the Ark of God to protect it

and God struck him dead. David was angry with God for killing Uzzah because he thought God would reward his good intention and would overlook his wrong actions. I have experienced this several times and have learned that you cannot please God by doing fleshly things. David sought the Lord and discovered that the priests were the only people who could carry the Ark of God. So, the Ark of God was carried on the shoulders of the priests and brought to Jerusalem with much singing and dancing before the Lord. Two things need to be highlighted firstly when David was dancing before the Lord, Michal saw him and despised him in her heart and because of this, she became barren. This is such a warning to us that there are consequences for our thoughts, we must never dwell on wrong things. Secondly, in **Amos 9:11** and **Acts 15:16** God declares that the Tabernacle of David will be rebuilt, God wants His presence to be seen by everyone. Psalm 105 is called “The external faithfulness of the Lord” this is a very interesting title for it is talking about the faithfulness of the Lord that can be seen not only experienced. **Verse 1** says: “*Oh, give thanks to the Lord! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples*”. This is talking about what we say, while it is good to think about the goodness of the Lord it is much more effective when we talk about Him.



This should be our standard talking point, always giving thanks to the Lord. The verse goes on to say “Call upon His name”, this is an area where we need to keep reminding ourselves that He is the Lord of our lives and that He is the answer to all situations. Because at times we wrongly think that we can do it by ourselves and when we do that, we become distant from our Lord. Next, it is so important that we learn to talk about His goodness to everyone, during the Pandemic so many people got caught up with other issues and did not seize the opportunity to talk about the greatness of God. So now is the time to return to talking about His goodness in our lives.

## Psalm 105 Part 2

This psalm reminds us of the greatness of our God and instructs us in the ways of expressing His goodness. **Verse 2** says: “*Sing to Him, sing Psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works* “. We are told to sing to the Lord, it is to sing songs that we enjoy and express our love for the Lord, this verse very clearly states who the focus of our singing should be when we sing, we are to do it unto Him. This can be quite a challenge because if we like music and singing, we can be tempted to fill our minds with songs that do not glorify God. For many years every time I drove my car, I always had the radio playing because I liked having music playing in the background, however, if the songs I was listening to were from a worldly source I was training myself to be satisfied with things that were not of God. For a long time now the only music that I listen to is from Christian musicians. We are not only to sing to the Lord but sing specific songs that exalt Him, in my unit I have Christian music playing all day, I have a ‘USB’ stick with over 80 CDs recorded on it and I have set my music player to Random so that I am continually hearing songs that magnify the Lord. Next, the verse tells us to ‘Talk of all His wondrous works’

this is so easy to forget, at times there is so much going on in the world that it is so easy to get caught up with the spirit of this age and forget to talk about the goodness of God in our lives. There is nothing more encouraging than talking about how real the Lord is in our everyday living! **Verse 3** says: “*Glorify His holy name; let the hearts of those rejoice who seek the Lord* “. The word ‘Glorify’ means to ‘Praise Highly’ so we are to praise highly the uniqueness of our God, the power that is in His name! I am challenged by this because I realise that I can highly praise Him more than I do, you cannot praise the Lord too much. The verse goes on to say when we are aware of who He is, that is a good time to praise Him. He desires us to go from strength to strength always wanting more of the Lord in our lives. **Verse 4** reminds us “*Seek the Lord and His strength; seek his face for evermore* “. One of the biggest traps we face as Christians is that we become content with our past experiences and try to rely on them as a justification for how we are living now! The Bible is very clear ‘Now’ is the time to have a vibrant personal relationship with the Lord and we must guard against losing the ‘Now’ experience. The freshness of the Lord is so invigorating and is something we must be continually on guard for because there can be always something in the events of

life that could cloud the nearness of our Lord. This verse also reminds us ‘To seek His face for evermore’. We live in a world that goes from one drama to another, this is not how we enjoy our relationship with the Lord. Because He never leaves or forsakes us, He is with us all the time. There is such joy to be experienced when we constantly live in a close relationship with Him.

## Psalm 105 Part 3

One of the weaknesses of our human nature is it is so easy to take for granted the good life that we live and if we are not careful, we can just coast along and not acknowledge the goodness of God in our life. This Psalm is so precious in the way that it continually reminds us of the greatness of God. **Verse 5** says: *“Remember His marvellous works which He has done, His wonders and judgements of His mouth”*. This is such good advice *“Remember His marvellous work which He has done”*. I had written a book about my spiritual journey which I titled *“Reflections of a man who did not know what he knew”* and my son Brad asked me to do an audio recording so that he update my website. I was amazed at the goodness of God in my life over my lifetime, there were so many that I had to pause and collect my emotions as I spoke of the miracles I had experienced in my life over those years. The chorus of a well-known hymn says *“Count your blessings name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done”*. Remembering God’s goodness in our lives is a very effective way to control our thoughts. **Proverbs 23:7** says: *“As a man thinks in his heart so is he!”*. We live so freely when

we are consumed by the goodness of our God. **Verse 6** says: “*O seed of Abraham His servant, you children of Jacob, His chosen ones!*”. This truth is worthy of our meditation, to understand we are chosen by God, the power of this statement is because God has chosen us then I am forever indebted to the love of God. It is good to remember that I am not my own, I have been bought with a price and that price is the blood of Jesus. We must never forget the significance of being born again! **Verse 7** says: “*He is Lord God; His judgement is in all the earth*”. Again, the psalmist reminds us of our personal relationship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. This truth cannot be overstated because sometimes we are tempted to believe that I am not important to God and we become just like ordinary people. The truth is I am important to God and I have a unique purpose to fulfil so that the body of Christ grows. Also, God is in control and because of the pandemic we have experienced over the last two years when Satan has attacked the church in a significant way to make it ineffective. While this was a time of sifting, the church has come out more focused on the greatness of God and the church is becoming more effective as lives are being changed by increased awareness of the presence of God. In this new season where the world is in such a mess because of the

decisions that governments have made. We must forget the events of the world did not take God by surprise. He has a plan for His church and it is encouraging to hear reports from all over the world of the Lord visiting His Church in a new and living way. This is an exciting time to be alive and see how the Lord is building His church. The Psalmist truly said, “He is the Lord our God” and as Lord, over all the earth it is time for us to experience this truth in our daily walk with Jesus.

## Psalm 105 Part 4

The title of this Psalm is “The eternal faithfulness of God” and as we look at the rest of the psalm the psalmist goes into great detail about the faithfulness of God to Israel. As I reflect on this it becomes quite apparent to me that at times, I do not take the hand of God on my life very seriously. There seems at times an overwhelming desire to just coast along and not acknowledge God in my life and be content to live my way. We are reminded in **Verse 7** “*The Lord is our God*”, knowing God comes from our personal relationship with the Lord and not pleasing ourselves. In **Verse 8** God says: “*He has remembered His covenant forever, the word which He commanded for a thousand generations* “. God being totally trustworthy is something that I do not take seriously enough because we live in such a ‘make-believe’ society the images that we are exposed to are mainly fake, it takes a strong character to stand for that which is right. **Verse 9** tells us when this God-Covenant commenced, “The covenant He made with Abraham and His oath with Isaac “. This is very interesting that the covenant commenced with Abraham when he was a pagan man living in a pagan country that worshipped



many gods, all of them false Gods. Abraham heard the voice of God whom he did not know, yet he obeyed Him to the extent of leaving his land of birth and his relatives and going to a land he did not know existed and where it was and just following God whom he did not know. Because of this obedience, God made a covenant with him, that lasted a thousand generations through which all the people of the world be blessed by his obedience. Today I am a recipient of that covenant, Jesus died and rose again on the third day so that I can be born again and live a blessed life living with Jesus. It is so important that we understand the Old Testament for the bible says that it was written for our learning and understanding (**1 Corinthians 10:11**). We should not forget that when Peter preached on the day of Pentecost the only bible, he had was the Old Testament 3000 people were saved. I am not saying the Old Testament is more important because we know all scripture is inspired by God but we should not forget the truths of the Old Testament. Getting back to the psalm **Verse 10** says: *“And confirmed it to Jacob for a statute, to Israel for an everlasting covenant”*. Note how God reaffirmed His covenant to every generation, firstly to Abraham, then to his son Isaac, then to his son Jacob and then to the twelve sons of Jacob. This psalm demonstrates the eternal

faithfulness of God because we see the land of Israel today which God promised to the Children of Israel despite their behaviour and the consequences of that behaviour God has been faithful to His promise and we see the land lived with His people. Today I am so encouraged by the faithfulness of God, He is so true to His word and I want to be the man of God He has called me to be by the renewing of my mind and not conforming to the way of the world. May we never forget the faithfulness of our God.

## Psalm 105 Part 5

This psalm continues to describe the faithfulness of God, in this booklet we will look at **Verses 13-35**. It is so important to have an unshakeable trust in the goodness of God and to remember that He has given us the Old Testament to demonstrate how He protects His people. **Verse 14** says “*He permitted no one to do them wrong; yes, He reprov'd kings for their sakes*”. When you read their story as recorded in the book of Genesis you see some of the histories of Jacob and his family but there was no specific mention of their protection. However, the psalmist under the anointing of the Holy Spirit declares that God protected them from kings who had the power to destroy them. I believe over the years I and my family have been protected by the Lord, in all my years of driving I have never experienced a serious accident that could have caused serious injuries to me and my family. This blessing we take for granted, also, there are so many other things that we have been protected from that we are not aware of them. However, it should not stop us from being thankful for God’s goodness in our lives. This is why a close relationship is so essential because then we are constantly aware of Him so we keep on

thanking Him for being in our lives. In **Verses 16-22** we see the story of the famine in Egypt and from God's perspective, He declares the famine was His plan and Joseph was part of that plan. When we read the account in Genesis of how Joseph was mistreated by his brothers and sold as a slave in Egypt, sent to prison for being righteous. All this discomfort was part of God's plan that Jacob and his family would not only survive but be better off. This is such a challenge to me, at times I am tempted to complain about my circumstances. However, the psalmist teaches me that God has a good plan for my life and will go to extreme measures to have that plan fulfilled. It is so interesting to see the hand of God in Jacob and his family's life. When they came to Egypt, they were given the best land to live in, so when the famine was over, they increased in a significant way. **Verse 24** says: "*And He (that is God) increased His people greatly, and made them stronger than their enemies*". It is so interesting to note that about 70 people went to Egypt and about 2 million people left Egypt to go to the promised land. I am reminded of what Joseph said to his brothers after the death of his father Jacob found in **Genesis 50:20** "*But as for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, in order to bring about as it is this day, to save many people alive*". God had a plan for

His people in those times and was faithful to bring His plan to come to pass. It is so encouraging to follow the story of the children of Israel and see how God blessed them despite their weaknesses. This encourages me to be aware that God is faithful God and although at times we experience situations that we do not understand. There is one unshakeable fact that never changes and that is God is a Faithful God!

## Psalm 105 Part 6

As we come to the last part of this Psalm, I have been challenged/ impacted by the attitude of David. He wrote this psalm when something unique had taken place, the Ark of God was in Jerusalem for the first time in the history of the Children of Israel. While the Ark of God had been brought to Jerusalem that was not the focus of this psalm. The title of this psalm is “The external faithfulness of the Lord” or “The visible faithfulness of the Lord”. This is something that sometimes we can forget because there is a tendency to live in the ‘now’ and while it is important to love the Lord in our present situation, we should not forget the hand of our Lord over our lifetime. There is a danger that we confuse trying to repeat the past with acknowledging how the Lord has been in all of our life. I am encouraged by part of this song “All my life you have been faithful, all my life you have been so good”. While David was so excited to have the Ark of God in Jerusalem, he did not forget how God had made Israel a great nation from the obedience of Abraham and Sarah. In the last part of this psalm, David concentrates on how God set them free from Egypt. He reminded the people how God had inflicted the

plagues on the Egyptians without affecting the Children of Israel. They went to Egypt as a family of 70 people and came out a rich nation of a couple of million people. And they saw the hand of God inflicting suffering on the Egyptians, they also saw the Egyptian army drown. **Verse 38** says: “*Egypt was glad when they departed, for the fear of the Lord had fallen upon them*”. God protected and fed them in the wilderness, He provided a pillar cloud by day for shade and a pillar of fire at night for warmth. He provided water from a rock and satisfied them with bread from heaven. And He gave them the land promised to Abraham all those years before. There is so much that could be written about the faithfulness of God’s promise to Israel. I am encouraged by David that when he experienced something new and great from the Lord, he did not just dwell on the present but rejoiced in the faithfulness of the Lord. In this season in which we are now living, a season which we have never experienced before it is good to remind ourselves of God’s faithfulness in our lives. Firstly, I am reminded of what great salvation He has provided for us. Because of His great love for you and me, He died on the cross and rose again on the third day so that I may live a life free from the power of sin. I am so glad that He returned to heaven so that I can

experience the fullness and power of the Holy Spirit. It is so good to be part of His family and see His hand in my life. As we see the Lord build His church may we continually be reminded of the faithfulness of our God because He is worthy of all praise.