52 Days of Building the Second Wall with the Word and Wisdom

**Revive me According to Your Word**

Day 16 – May 29, 2013

During these 52 Days, the Lord is making His Heart very plain to us that **He wants us to know and study His Word.** His Word is what we need to find our way in life. Psalm 119 talks over and over again about the benefits of following His commandments, statutes, precepts, ordinances, and judgments that are found in the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament. There are five other books in the Old Testament that are known as the **books of wisdom**: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon.

Today we will spend most of our time in one of the books of Wisdom, Psalms. **Please read our passage of Psalms for this week, Psalms 119: 25-48.** In these 24 verses, some form of God’s Word (commandment, precepts…) is mentioned 27 times, along with various promises for those who will observe it.

Reading King David’s emotional words in Psalms is so refreshing. He is honest with God as to what he is feeling and going through. He pours out his heart to the Lord in the good times and the bad. Then **he stands on the promises of God’s Word and he is refreshed.** This is why Psalms is a book of wisdom. When we are struggling, this book more than any other is comfort to our souls. It always seems to help when we know someone else has gone through hard times and has gotten through them.

Yesterday we compared the struggles and trials in our life to the oils that were extracted from various plants through the process of stripping, crushing, cutting, or pounding to prepare the costly anointing oil for the priests and the holy incense. When prepared and used, they produced a pleasing aroma to the Lord.

We know that the outcome of the trials we go through is glorious as we get closer to the One we love and who loves us, Almighty God, our Savior Jesus Christ, and our teacher and comforter, the Holy Spirit. **But the knowledge of this outcome does not take away the pain and exhaustion we feel as we go through these hard times.** Let’s dive into Psalms and find encouragement and strength.

**Psalm 119:25** “My soul cleaves to the dust; Revive me according to Your Word.”

**Psalm 119:28** “My soul weeps because of grief (depression); Strengthen me according to Your Word.”

King David is very expressive; some of you might even say he is being overemotional. But he was just trying to express what he was feeling in his prayers to the Lord. He knew his help would come from no other, so he laid it all out before God. So many times we are told to keep our emotions to ourselves; but God wants us to be real with Him. He knows what we are feeling, and there is great power in admitting it to Him.

King David is confessing that **he is in the depths of depression and grief**. He has gone through great betrayal and he is stuck in the swirling emotions of his mind and will.. The phrase “**cleaves to the dust”** means to be **stuck in the mud**. I don’t know if you have ever been stuck in the mud, but it is bad on so many fronts. You can go nowhere, because you are stuck. You keep getting muddier with each attempt to get yourself unstuck and you have to wait for help to come to get you out. In these times of being stuck, do we wait patiently for help? Usually not, because our emotions are all over the place, manifesting in tears and anger.

In his depression, in his state of being stuck, what does King David ask of the Lord?

**Revive and strengthen me according to Your Word.**

**Revive** - ***chayah,*** which means to bring back to life.

Webster’s Dictionary defines **revive:** to recover new life or vigor; to be reanimated after depression; to recover from a state of neglect, oblivion, obscurity or depression; to raise from depression or discouragement; to awaken; to bring into action after a suspension.

**Strengthen** – ***qum*** – to stand up, to rise up.

Why can we arise out of a state of depression and discouragement according to God’s Word? Because His Word is true and the promises He speaks to us will come to pass.

**Psalm 3:1-4** “O LORD, how my adversaries have increased! Many are rising up against me. Many are saying of my soul, ‘There is no deliverance for him in God.’ But You, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and **the One who lifts my head.** I was crying to the LORD with my voice, and He answered me from His holy mountain.”

We can know that our Lord is the One who is listening for our cries and answering them. He is the One who lifts our head out of the miry clay (mud).

**Psalm 40:1-3**  “I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me and heard my cry. He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, **out of the miry clay**, And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; Many will see and fear And will trust in the LORD.”

King David gives us a secret to being lifted out of the mud we are stuck in. **He waited patiently** for the Lord. There are two parts to this: he waited and he was patient in his waiting. Neither of these behaviors is easy for mankind, but they are possible and very necessary to get us out of the miry clay we are stuck in.

**Psalm 44:23-26** “Arouse Yourself, why do You sleep, O Lord? Awake, do not reject us forever. Why do You hide Your face *And* forget our affliction and our oppression? For our soul has sunk down into the dust; Our body cleaves to the earth. Rise up, be our help, And redeem us for the sake of Your lovingkindness.”

King David was having a hard time waiting for the Lord and was very transparent with the Lord and with us in his writings. Sometimes we have to wait a long time to get out of the mud, or into the promises God has spoken in our lives.

The word **patient** means having the quality of enduring evils without murmuring or fretfulness; sustaining afflictions of body or mind with fortitude; not easily provoked; calm under the sufferance of injuries or offenses; not revengeful; persevering; constant in pursuit or exertion; calmly diligent; not hasty; not over eager or impetuous; waiting or expecting with calmness without discontent.

Please don’t run the opposite direction from patience. It is a powerful fruit of the Spirit that has been put in all believers in seed form. Please allow it to come to maturity in your heart through these trials of waiting.

**Psalm 27:13-14** “I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living. Wait for the LORD; be strong and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the LORD. “

Going back to **Psalm 40:1-3**, after we have waited patiently, He will pull us out of the miry clay and set our feet on a solid foundation. Who is that solid foundation? Jesus Christ. We had gotten stuck in the mud because we have wandered off the path (way) the Lord had laid out for us. But now He picks us up, and cleans us off, and sets our feet back on the chosen path, one with a sure foundation. What must we do when this happens? PRAISE HIM, PRAISE HIM, and PRASIE Him some more. He will put a new song in our hearts, and we must sing it to Him! He has brought us out and now we can soar with Him, more grateful of His presence and sure footing than ever before.

**Isaiah 40:31** “Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary.”

What a wonderful promise!

**DIGGING DEEPER:**

Psalm 119 uses a form of the word **revive** 11 times. Obviously this is a key word in this chapter. Use a concordance, cross-references, or Bible software to find these verses and write out the truths you see in them.

**Please work on your memory verse for this week: Psalm 119:33.**