
“A RAY OF HOPE”

JOHN 8:12 PSALM 119:1-16
WBC SERMON NOTES 17/01/2021
REV. PAUL WITTER

Introduction

The recent Christmas and New Year was something quite different to what we have experienced in previous years. As we reflect on the past year, and the year to come, we have a ray of hope!

A ray of hope

“I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” -- John 8:12

“We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure ...”-- Heb. 6:19

The setting of Jesus words: “I am the light of the world”:

The Festival of Tabernacles

- **Water poured at the brazen altar** – God’s miraculous provision.
“With joy you will draw water from wells of salvation.” -- Isaiah 12:3
“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink” -- John 7:37-39
Only Christ can satisfy our spiritual thirst!!
- **The lighting of 4 candelabra:**
A reminder of God’s presence & leading
Psalm 27:1 Psalm 119:105 Isaiah 60:1
Ezekiel - the departing of God’s glory & 1 Samuel 4:21
“I am the light of the world” – only Jesus can truly save and lead us!

A hike up the mountain ...

*Pressed out of measure and pressed to all length;
Pressed so intently it seems beyond strength.
Pressed in body and pressed in soul;
Pressed in mind till dark surges roll;
Pressure by foes, pressure by friends;
Pressure on pressure, till life nearly ends
Pressed into loving the staff and the rod;
Pressed into knowing no helper but God*

-- Annie Johnson Flint

Question: “Can YOU trust GOD?”

What this means:

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Are we the people of God that AW Tozer describes?

Exhibit 1: The man who trusted God: David

Psalm 4:3,8: *“Know that the Lord himself has set apart the godly (faithful) for himself; the Lord hears when I call him.
In PEACE I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, O God, make me dwell in safety.”*

Psalm 56:3-4: *“When I am afraid, I will put my trust in you.
In God, whose word I praise, in God I put my trust;
I shall not be afraid. What can mere man do to me?”*

Psalm 57:1 *“Be gracious to me, O God, be gracious to me,
for my soul takes refuge in you;
and in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge
until danger passes me by.”*

Felix of Nola: *“Where God is, a spider’s web is a;
where He is not, a is but a spider’s web.”*

Psalm 143:8: *“Let me experience your faithful love in the morning
for I trust in you;
Reveal the way I should go because I appeal to you.” (CSB)*

How do you trust God when you face difficulties and disaster?

“Can you thank Me for trusting you with this experience even if I never tell you why?”
-- Medical missionary Helen Roseveare

“What a profound thought that God has trusted each of us with our own set of unfair circumstances and unexplained experiences to deal with. Can we still trust Him even if he never tells us why.”
-- Chuck Swindoll

Strength comes from a proper perspective:

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”
-- Proverbs 3:5-6

“Faith is not belief without proof but trust without reservation”
-- Elton Trueblood

*“First, He brought me here; it is by His will I am in this straight place; in that fact I will rest.
Next, He will keep me in His love, and give me the grace to behave as His child.
Then, He will make the trial a blessing, teaching me lessons He intends me to learn, and working in me the grace He means to bestow.
Last, in His good time, He can bring me out again – how and when, He knows.”*
-- Andrew Murray

How do you keep fit spiritually: 3 realities from Psalm 119:1-8

1. The REALITY of God’s (v1-3)
2. The NECESSITY of God’s (v4-5)
3. The AUTHORITY of God’s (v6-8)

Do u have a Game Plan for 2021? Keep in shape! (Psalm 119:9-16)

1. the Lord **REGULARLY** (v10)
2. His truth **FULLY** (v11, 12)
3. His truth **FREQUENTLY** and **UNRESERVEDLY** (v13)
4. in God's workings **JOYFULLY** (v14,16)
5. **God's ways WHOLE-HEARTEDLY** (v15-16)
 - Think about & meditate on the rich principles found in Scripture.
 - Give God your full respect.

Polish pianist Ignace Jan Paderewski and the young boy.

TRUSTING GOD: QUESTIONS FOR PERSONAL & GROUP DISCUSSION

Open:

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal truth and wisdom to you.
- How do you feel about 2021? Optimistic or pessimistic?
- Share the significance of Hebrews 6:19 in your life.
- Choose a note, verse or quote that stands out for you in the sermon.

Digging Deeper:

- What significance does the Festival of Tabernacles and Jesus words have for us today?
- How did David's faith shape what he did? How does your faith shape life?
- How do you relate to Helen Roseveare's , Swindol's & Murray's comments?

Going forward:

- How would you answer the question, "Can you trust God?"
- Which reality from Psalm 119:1-8 is most meaningful to you?
- Which Game Plan point from Psalm 119:9-16 do you need work on in 2021? What will you DO to implement it. Share your "take home".

Close:

- Read Romans 8:28-39
- Pray with your prayer partner about implementing 1 truth you have learnt, and about something that has stood out for you in the study.