

Psalms 5:1 To the chief Musician upon Nehiloth, A Psalm of David. Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation.

OUR SUBJECT is making prayer a priority.

The book of Psalms is inspired by the Holy Spirit , It is Gods word to us. acts as a handbook to prayer, to inspire our own prayer life. and a great source of comfort at all times. Even in deep crisis. When Jonah was in the belly of a whale In utter darkness in great despair knowing he had disobeyed God He prayed scripture, so much of his prayer was inspired by Psalms. - *Salvation is of the LORD*. And the same is true for us when we come into crisis if we have memorised any portions of psalms it becomes a great inspirer to our prayer It will be a great help steering our prayers.

As we go through this Psalm may it inspire us. We will see **the Mindset of prayer** - The confidence of the man of prayer the approach of the man of Prayer The Petition of the man of prayer and then finally the great Joy of the man of Prayer.

The Mindset of prayer, or the heart behind prayer, the true attitude of Prayer

Give ear to my words, O LORD, consider my meditation. Give ear to my words, then he makes a distinction and speaks of a second part, *'my meditation.'* The soft and the loud the silent cry of the heart. Unutterable sighs, and longings which are understood by our father who hears. and who searches every heart. This word, *'consider my meditation.'* To pray what is in your heart. A man can pray With His lips a good and fine sounding prayer, yet none of his eloquent words are in His heart, God sees the heart of man, God measures the heart, and rewards the sincerity of the heart, not only the words. He knows when the words and the heart don't match. But "*Consider my meditation.*" has a further meaning - If I have asked that which is right, give it to me; if I have overlooked to ask that which I most needed, fill up what I neglected in my prayer. "*Consider my meditation.*" **Spurgeon comments in treasuries of David** - "Let Your holy Spirit look at my prayer as offered through Jesus, my perfect Mediator. In Your wisdom, examine it, weigh my sincerity in your scales, understand what I truly need, (*even the things I don't know how to ask for*) and answer me at the right time according to Your mercy."

Abrahams Servant is commissioned to go and seek a wife for Isaac, He remains unnamed in Genesis. But its remarkable, He offers a Prayer for success of the task he is given Genesis 22:42- 45. We read in V25 *"But before I had finished speaking in my heart,* sometimes our hearts pray deeply even when there are no words. We saw this with Hannah as well when she went to the temple to pray. she prayed in her heart with no words on her lips. **God hears the prayers of the heart the meditation and yearning of the heart.** The tears of the heart.

IT IS FAR BETTER HAVING A PRAYING HEART than simply having a habit of saying long prayer with our mouth. It may look like prayer on the outside but have very little heart devotion. Spurgeon puts it clearly let us cultivate a SPIRIT of prayer not just a HABIT of prayer.

"Thou understandest my thought afar off." Psalm 139:2 The Psalmist knows that God saw his heart, David knew, **and we also know** that God understands every thought - God has all knowledge and God sees and knows, His *Omniscience (insight, wisdom, awareness)* brings deep comfort to the soul of all who love Him. They know that God will not only do what they think, *but exceedingly abundantly above what they think* Eph 3:20 Therefor they cry CONSIDER MY MEDITATION. My sighing, my rising thoughts, my earnest desire. He asks God to consider and think about the things which fill his soul. Isn't this a comfort when we are so down that we have no words, when we are in such distress, we know not what to pray for. **We know God understands our sighs and our deepest cries.** We know we can cry with our lips My God and my king and make our requests know to Him. What would suffering believers do without access to the throne of Grace?

David was resolved to pray- He made up His mind to pray. *Psalms 5:2 Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray.* Do I see prayer as the Solution to my difficulties, We have to push aside the thoughts of the natural mind, the discouragement the mind brings that will questions and doubt that prayer will be answered. Our natural mind would rather try find a solution some scheme, ask a friend do something, but David shows us where real answers come from - 'UNTO THEE I WILL PRAY.' David made up his mind to pray David was determined to give Himself to prayer. What an important truth we must learn from Him. We can all relate to what it is like to just have no money and great needs. The mind flashes dozens of possibilities ask your uncle, ask your church. What's the first thing we do

in a crisis. Well what is the first thing we should do the wisest thing to do the thing David teaches us. UNTO THEE WILL I PRAY. *Psalms 5:3 My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.* Whenever someone is very sincere to do their work diligently, they will rise early to seek the Lord. The man who gives his first and early thoughts to God will find it easy to stay prayerful and devoted to God throughout the rest of the day. Let the Lord hear our voice in the morning. This is the key that never fails to unlock the day. Let us not go into even the busiest day without lifting up and committing the day to the Lord in prayer. Looking to Him to direct our affairs to overrule whatever needs overruling. to help us through the whole day. Let us ask for a spirit of prayer, Let us not drift away or live without any desire for Him and His paths. Let me not wander aimlessly, without a true desire for God in my heart. I will resolve to look up to thee with confidence. I will rely upon the power of God. Prayer brings us into the very presence of God. Prayer binds us to our God like nothing else on earth. Let us resolve to make this our first priority. David says I will direct my prayer unto thee.

We learn from this psalm the confidence of David as a man of prayer –

David prays in a rather negative way in v4- v6. you hate all who do evil you destroy those who lie, you reject violent and evil people, you reject fraudsters deceitful men, blood thirsty men. David knew what it was to be surrounded by enemies. He lived with constant danger. Saul and his soldiers hunted him like an animal in the mountains. Later, Absalom rose in rebellion against him and sought to destroy him.

We as Gods People are reminded that we too are surrounded by enemies –

temptations all around us, **spiritual attacks** - **pressures and influences** of the World.

Opposition from those who hate the truth- **Davids Prayer reminds us** to be a people of prayer and pray and always look to the Lord for protection, for guidance, and for strength. We live in a world that is increasing in wickedness, hostility and persecution against truth and prayer is our only remedy for this.

Essentially what David was saying here is - Lord remember these people who are surrounding me, and wanting to harm me, **they are your enemies as well**, they hate you, they reject you, they stand against you. My prayer is for protection from, those whose actions and lifestyle is detestable to you. Lord my enemies are your enemies. This is Davids Confidence He knows that they are Gods enemies, He says *Psalms 5:4 For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with You.* He is

Confident that the Lord will uphold Him and deal with His enemy. He knows the foolish will not stand in Gods sight. The foolish here are those who have resolved to live without God who have rejected God, and made sin the way of their life they know that their life is displeasing to God but they are so very stubborn and don't care and arrogantly rebel without any restraint. This kind of life is an affront its disrespectful to God – God will destroy them. **He is confident of this.** –

Let's look at His approach to God. *Psalms 5:7 But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.* It seems He has a clear purpose of mind, parallel to what we read in Joshua 24:15. *“But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”* then next He says I will come in the **multitude of their mercies.** He knew He didn't deserve to come, it was mercy he could come. David understood the old testament sacrifices were to enable guilty sinners to be forgiven. He says, I come resting my soul upon the mercy of God. That is how David came morning by morning by the mercies of God. Now because of the merit of Christ Jesus, We can boldly come to the throne of grace. We come in no other way but by His mercy granted. We have Confidence in The new and the Living way by the Blood and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. He says **in Fear I will worship** towards your Holy temple. He was not full of terror, no rather it means **a sense of awe and respect and regard and reverence.** That is Godly fear. He looked to heaven Humbly and with gratitude for Gods Mercy. There was no lighthearted familiarity and casualness but a sense of Majesty and greatness towards the Holy Creator of Heaven and earth. **Look at His approach** v8 Lead me oh Lord in your righteousness. Lead me Lord in a way that is right in your eyes. Because of my enemies. I want to keep on a steady course of obedience to God. I want no duties to be left undone. I don't want to give in to the paths of those around me. **I want to be lead in your appointed paths for me.** I ask you Lord choose my friends for me. If you are not married say Lord you choose my Husband, my wife for me. You choose my career. Spurgeon once said when we have learned to give up our own path and long for Gods paths it's a sure sign of Gods Grace in our lives. We can be sure that the Lord is at work in our lives. Are we just doing and planning our own lives or do we approach the Lord **in reverence seeking His ways and His will for everything I do.** We learn from David who said, LORD make my paths straight, **help me to know and see the way you would have me to Go.** That was His prayer- what a worthy prayer for us to adopt and make our own.

Look at the Joys of the man of Prayer. How different the Joy compared to the enemies around Him. The enemies who are pronounced guilty, the enemies who fall by their own council. How futile our own council is it always fails it always falls. The enemy is cast out in the multitude of their transgressions, for the enemy always rebels against God. *Psalms 5:9 For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; Their inward part is destruction; Their throat is an open tomb; They flatter with their tongue.* In Short David describes His enemies as an open tomb, an open grave with a rotting corpse in it. The apostle quotes this phrase in Rom 3:10-13 and refers it to the whole human race, none righteous no not one. The unconverted world with its ways is like the open grave with a rotting corpse. Would you go there to relax, would you be comfortable with all the flies and the putridness of it. would you be content to live next door to this open grave. What a graphic picture. What a terrible picture. a picture of things that will pollute and lead your soul astray. WHAT DAVID is saying I recoil and keep clear of the WORLD. He rejects that all together. The application is very clear. We reject the putridness and rottenness of the World. no our hope and trust is in the LORD

Psalms 5:11 *But let all those rejoice who put their trust in You; Let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them; Let those also who love Your name Be joyful in You.* **Now we see the Joyfulness of Prayer and devotion**

David points out that those who trust in the Lord have every reason to rejoice What a blessed thing to be a believer, what a happy condition for the soul to be full of faith and belief trusting and having confidence in the Lord. Joy is for every believer not just the strong, not just the mature even weak believers and new believers or even fearful believers have the right to Joy because they trust God. In Life, in death, in every season of Life, even in the middle of trouble. we can rejoice in Him and trust in Him.

David says let them ever shout with Joy, because you defend them. Joy is not just an occasional thing, we should not just be Joyful on Sunday and discouraged the rest of the week. We can be enthusiastic about Joy because WE KNOW **why we rejoice**, We know in whom we have believed. You hide them under the shadow of Your Wings; you are a strong and a mighty tower the righteous run to you and they are safe. Oh, the calm and assurance that comes to my heart when He places His hand upon me. All trembling ceases peace like a river flows and Joy wells up in my heart. I know

without a doubt it is well it is well with my soul. God will protect me, I'm depending upon His mercy. **THIS JOY IS TO BE EXPRESSED IN MY LIFE** - Let them shout with Joy- sometimes quiet assurance- sometimes singing- sometimes tears of Joy.

Let those also love your name and be Joyful in you. Joy comes from loving God, the more you love God the more Joy you will experience. For the Lord will bless the righteous. **Those that seem to have the least reason to rejoice often seem to rejoice the most.** Think of the Martyrs being led away to be burned at the stake. They rejoiced in tribulation. Understand the persecutors laugh and mock now, but in eternity they shall weep, and we shall rejoice ever more with shouts of Joy. God will triumph. This Holy joy is ours forever.

The Lord God is our strength and our song He has become our salvation. Only those who trust in their God can rejoice in great difficulties. **FAITH IN GOD PRODUCES GREAT JOY, Discovering Gods Truths** election justification adoption. Interpreting trials with hope seeing Gods purpose in suffering. **Believing Gods Promises** which are many and are yea and amen. **Looking forward to our eternal home with the Lord,** the great Joy that is ahead. No these are Spiritual truths for those who trust in the Lord. unbelievers cant and don't have any reason for lasting Joy. they can understand Christian Joy.

Psalms 5:12 For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; With favor You will surround him as with a shield. The Lord will protect us this protection He gives His trusting people. He protects us--1. From the slavery of sin. 2. From the penalty of transgression.

In this fallen world there are many causes of sadness. It may be a spouses sin, or a child's rebellion or harsh treatment can discourage the Godly. some Christians may be facing a temporary season of trial – But Joy comes in the morning. Some battle temperament, and discouragement issues. Anxiety or depression-

these trials or these life's difficulties may throng around us but the one who trusts God, can sing, The one who trusts has a shout of joyful praise. The Lord is my keeper, Angels are our guardians, Providence is my protector. God Himself is the preserver of the chosen. **Our Joy arises from what the LORD has done for us.** Without Joy, the Christian life becomes weak and difficult. But the Joy of the Lord is our Strength Joy makes us an attractive witness. Joy on earth is practice of heavens

worship. We are reminded *Philippians 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!* and we are commanded again - Rejoice always, **Pray without ceasing** in everything give thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Give ear to my Words OH LORD. Consider my meditation. Let us resolve to be believers that let Him hear our voice in the morning. let us continue the day with shouts of Joy-

Let's pray together. Lord we are thankful you have given us the Word of God and Psalms so full of encouragement and comfort such a pattern worthy of following. We thank you for the Patterns provided for prayer for every area and for every thingsg that we face in our daily lives. We acknowledge it would be folly to try to live without prayer, Folly to live without your gracious help and care. Help us to be a people that rise in the morning and rise even early to say like David MY KING MY GOD to you will I pray. We thank you for the Joy of answers from the throne of grace. We thank you that you hear our Cries and even our sighs and even our tears. O Lord, grant that we too may be like David praying in the morning praying throughout the day with many arrow prayer. Rejoicing in the blessedness of answered prayer We ask in our Saviour's name. Amen.