

“Reading PSALMS to know God”

This book consists of edited transcripts of Bible studies done by Ed Miller in 1999. Ed has been teaching the Bible diligently since the 70's and in our opinion is one of the most anointed, Christ-centered teachers that the Lord has given to His Body. Ed will not teach a book unless the Lord sheds His light and understanding on it. His goal is always to see God's heart in the book and the special revelation of Christ that would be missing without it. The purpose of Bible study is **not to know the Bible** but to **know God**. It makes a powerful difference when you follow our Lord Jesus Christ's admonition in Matthew 11:29

“Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”

True rest for your soul comes only by giving up your burden and coming deeper and deeper into a real relationship with the Lord who loves you more than you will ever be able to comprehend in this life.

Having come to know Ed personally over many years, we can attest to his high standard of honesty, integrity and unrivaled passion for our Lord Jesus Christ. He holds to standards, we believe, that are head and shoulders above most. He never solicits money nor has he charged anyone for a single tape or speaking engagement. He truly believes and lives trusting that the Lord will finance a work if He has ordained it.

The long and fruitful life of Ed and his dearly loved wife Lilian are a true testimony to lives sold out to the Lord Jesus Christ. They have mailed out thousands of teaching tapes and who but Ed would make all of his teachings freely available on a website for anyone to access.

We, the brothers and sister in Christ of Central Jersey, believe that these teachings are more valuable than silver, gold or any precious stone. This Book and the others to follow are never to be sold but will be made freely available to any who see their value.

THE INDISPENSABLE PRINCIPLE OF BIBLE STUDY

There are many principles that are helpful in the study of the Bible but there is only one **indispensable principle** of Bible study. Among the helps, we can name Bible commentaries, dictionaries, atlantes, sound critical texts of the original languages, lexicons, concordances, grammars, sermons on special passages, and the like. We are truly thankful to the Lord for the many aids He has given to assist earnest Bible students in their handling of the Word of God. However, there is only one indispensable principle of Bible study.

The indispensable principle of Bible study is “*total reliance upon God’s Holy Spirit*”. The Holy Spirit, who first inspired the Book, is the very One who must reveal Christ to the hungry heart through its pages. Academics alone will never reveal the precious treasures in God’s Word. No labor of mere research can discover the Lord to the heart. Only God can reveal God. The purpose of all Bible Study is to come to a heart-knowledge of the Lord through the Holy Spirit’s progressive unveiling of the Lord Jesus in the Scriptures.

The Bible, like the Lord Jesus, is both human and divine. We do not glorify ignorance! We clearly recognize the need to apply sound hermeneutical principles if we are to rightly interpret the human side; but we also recognize the need to come as dependent babes to the Holy Spirit if we ever hope to receive insight into the divine side. The revelation of the Lord is in His hands and He sows light spontaneously into the bosoms of the humble and needy. If all we get through our study is the human side, God have mercy on us! We will only become proud, for knowledge puffs up. We will end up with a chilling orthodoxy without a living Savior. Scriptural truth in the abstract, however profound and extensive, will leave the heart barren and the affections cold. We must behold the Living Word in the Written Word or all of our study is in vain. Christ Himself is the spirit and life of the Bible; He is the very essence and substance of sound doctrine.

Because of the great importance of the indispensable principle of Bible Study, and because of its sad neglect among very earnest students of the Scriptures, we are going to underscore this truth over and over again from many different portions of the Word of God.

Allow me to wrap up these comments by calling attention to several verses from the Bible. John 6:45 says,

" It is written in the prophets, "AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD ." Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me." If a heart is not "taught of God" it will never come to the Lord; if a heart is "taught of God" it will always come to Jesus. To come to Him in faith is the proper end of all Bible study. II Corinthians 4:6 says, " For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. " When we behold Him in His light we are transformed into His likeness. The changes that we experience by beholding Him are redemptive changes. Any change or reformation that comes into our lives in any other way than as the fruit produced by beholding Him is an unreal change and is destined to perish with all flesh. This is why we lay such tremendous stress on the indispensable principle. The final verse I lay before you is part of the Apostle Paul's prayer for the believers in Ephesus: Ephesians 1:15-18a " For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened." This is the prayer from all of us at Bible Study Ministries for you. May He unveil Himself to your heart in a living way, as you study the Scriptures under the guidance of the dear Holy Spirit.

For complete access to a lifetime of Christ-centered teaching go to:

www.biblestudyministriesinc.net

If the Lord puts it on your heart to donate to Ed's ministry you can find the contact information on the website.

To contact the brothers and sisters in Central Jersey you can email John:

john@takethehand.com

SOME SUGGESTIONS THAT MIGHT HELP:

- 1: TAKE IT SLOW-** This is not intended to read like a novel but is an edited transcript of “live” Bible studies by Ed.
- 2: HAVE YOUR BIBLE BY YOUR SIDE-** You will find it much more rewarding to actually turn to the suggested Scriptures as mentioned and read them yourself. It will help you familiarize yourself with their locations and give you a more personal experience with the Scriptures.
- 3: TAKE NOTES-** As the Holy Spirit lights up your spirit and speaks to your inner man it would be beneficial to keep a Spiritual Diary as insights and questions flood your mind.

Table of Contents

Introduction	1
The Model for All Psalms	2
Word Pictures	3
Word Pictures – Conclusion	4
Prayer	5
Prayer is Who You Are	6
Praying to Know God	7

Reading PSALMS to know God

Chapter One

Introduction

In this introduction study we fly over the entire book, trying to catch the essential flavor of the book, the spirit of the book, the heart of God. Why did God give us Psalms? What would be missing if God took Psalms away? What does Psalms give us of the Lord that no other book gives us in the same way? What does God hope to accomplish in our hearts through the study of this wonderful book together? These are the kinds of things that I want to look at. What is the best way to go through this book? I want to state for you five general observations about the book as a whole and then home in on what I think is the theme of the book.

All right, let me begin with my first observation of the book of Psalms. **It is a long book.** Did you notice that? One hundred and fifty chapters. It is the longest book in your Bible, and it is 33% longer than the second longest book in your Bible. Does anybody know what the second longest book in the Bible is? What would you guess? No, it is not Job, but that is a good guess. Isaiah has the most chapters, but Jeremiah has the most number of words, so Jeremiah is actually longer than Isaiah.

Chapters 1-41 is book one. Chapters 42-72 is book two. Then chapter 73-89 is book three. Chapters 90-106 is book four, and then the rest of the Psalms is book five. In each of the books you can tell when it ends, even if it did not say book two, because each one ends with a Doxology. Doxology simply means “an **expression of praise to God**, especially a short hymn sung as part of a Christian worship service”.

Book one ends with chapter 41:13:

***“Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
From everlasting to everlasting.
Amen and Amen.”***

Then you come to the end of book two, Psalm 72:18 and 19:

***“Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel,
Who alone works wonders.
And blessed be His glorious name forever;
And may the whole earth be filled with His glory.
Amen and Amen.”***

Of course books three and four end with a Doxology but book five ends with the greatest Doxology of all. It is not a verse. The whole last chapter is the Doxology! Psalm 150. So every book really ends up with this great Doxology since it ends the entire Book of Psalms. Here it is:

- 1 Praise the LORD!***
Praise God in His sanctuary;
Praise Him in His mighty expanse.
- 2 Praise Him for His mighty deeds;***
Praise Him according to His excellent greatness.
- 3 Praise Him with trumpet sound;***
Praise Him with harp and lyre.
- 4 Praise Him with timbrel and dancing;***
Praise Him with stringed instruments and pipe.
- 5 Praise Him with loud cymbals;***
Praise Him with resounding cymbals.
- 6 Let everything that has breath praise the LORD.***
Praise the LORD!

Now these five books, by the way, go way back before Christ. It was not a translator's division but one made in Old Testament times. The old Rabbi's used to say book one corresponds to Genesis, and book two corresponds to Exodus, and book three corresponds to Leviticus (the first five books of the Bible.) Book four corresponds to Numbers. Book five to Deuteronomy.

Now I tried to trace that out and, to be honest with you, it seems forced. I cannot make that my own. That is not saying it is not there. Maybe someday I will see that connection, but there is so much

overlapping that you can almost make it mean anything. So if you want to take that and try to figure that out, you can do that.

I think I know why there are five books. I think it is just a practical division to break it up into many books. No one is one hundred percent sure who arranged it into five books. The best scholarship says Solomon compiled book one, the men of Hezekiah compiled book two and three, Ezra and Nehemiah, they say, compiled the last two books. But that is all guesses. Nobody knows where we got the five divisions. The point is it is a long book. And because it is a long book it covers a great period of time.

I am going to ask you to look at Psalm 90. I do not really want you to look at the Psalm, I want you to look at the author. Who wrote Psalm 90? It will tell you right at the beginning in the heading... **Moses**. That is an old Psalm. Moses wrote Psalm 90. Now if you will turn to Psalm 137 and verse 1

“By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down and wept.”

If you know your Bible history you know that this refers to the Babylonian captivity. That was many years later. And the reason I call attention to Psalm 90, written by Moses, and Psalm 137, at the time or later than the Babylonian captivity, is to point out that the book of Psalms spans more than a **thousand years**. In other words, Moses was about 1500 B.C. and the Babylonian captivity was about 500 B.C., so you see how we get the 1000 year span.

I call attention to this because it is not only spanning one thousand years, but I like to word it this way and say Psalms covers a **thousand years of human experience**. Everything you will ever face in your life is touched on in this wonderful book of Psalms. Now in another connection I will show you why that is important, but hold that for now as the **first observation: it is long, and it covers over a thousand years**.

Here is the **second observation** and it is pretty simple. **The book of Psalms is a hymnal**. That is what it is. It is the Jewish hymnal. They are not just chapters. Each one of these is a song. Every chapter in Psalms was set to music and is inspired song. I think you know enough about songs to know this. A song is better sung than talked. I can sit here and say, all right, now we are going to look at this song, and we

never sing it. We are just going to analyze it. Well, you can ruin a song by just ripping it apart. If you really want to get into it, sing it! That is the whole point of the song.

When you usually think of the Psalms, who do you think of as the human author of the Psalms? Exactly right, King David. Now he was not the only author. As you know, Moses wrote Psalm 90. Solomon wrote a couple of Psalms. He wrote Psalm 72 and Psalm 127. Then Asaph, he was one of David's choir directors, wrote twelve Psalms. The Septuagint version, which is the Greek Old Testament, actually attributes Psalm 147 and 148 to Zechariah and Haggai.

There are seventy-three Psalms of David that have his name in the title. But, interestingly enough, there are four Psalms in the New Testament – Psalm 2, Psalm 16, Psalm 95, and Psalm 110, that are quoted, “*as David said.*” So you do not know in the Old Testament that David wrote them, but when you read Acts we find out that he did. So if you say David wrote between 73 and 80 Psalms you are pretty much on target. By the way, just to illustrate how wonderful the Psalms are, in the New Testament there are 219 quotes from the Old Testament, and out of those 219 quotes 116 of them are from the Psalms. In other words, these Psalms are so beautiful they were brought right into the New Testament.

You know David was a **lover of music**. Once he got to be king, in First Chronicles 16 he took Levites and, for the first time, he inaugurated full-time singers. That is all they did; they just sang. The Levites became full-time singers. He appointed three men to become his choir directors and band leaders – Asaph, Heman and Jeduthon. He set up 24 choirs, some as big as 2,000 voices. We think we invented these large venues. David had a 2,000 voice choir doing temple worship.

He also was a skillful harpist? We get that from First Samuel chapter 16. Amos calls him the composer of music. Many years later, when Amos wrote in II Samuel 23 (you are probably familiar with this title of David) **Sweet Psalmist of Israel**, he was certainly that. That is so obvious, but it needs to be said that this is a hymnal. We are going to study a **hymnal**.

Maybe you are familiar with some of the Hebrew words? Tehillim and Mizmor. That just means praises and songs. Perhaps you have heard the word psalter . Sometime this book is called the **Psalter** because of the use of the Psaltry an ancient stringed instrument. It was named after that. Our English word Psalms comes from the Greek word, Psalms. The root idea is to pluck or to strum. Today we use a pick. In those days they used a quill, a feather. All of that to say we are about to study a hymnal, and from where I sit it is a lot easier to teach Genesis or Luke than to try to teach a hymnal. I do not know if you have ever tried to study a book of songs. You are not going to get a system of theology here, and you are not going to get apologetics, and you are not going to get philosophy, and a system of ethics. What you are going to get is **lyrics and poetry**. This is heart; this is not cerebral. This is not academic. This has to do with the heart. **Poetry is the language of the soul**. I like that because I am sort of devotional in my makeup anyway. I look at devotional as that which stimulates **devotion to the Lord**, and I try to stimulate your hearts to be devotional in that sense.

If you wanted to study the hymnal in your church you would notice that the editors have divided it up into topics. So you have missionary hymns, and you have seasonal Christmas hymns, and you have baptism hymns, and you have funeral hymns, and you have assurance songs, and you have testimony songs, and you have songs about the cross and songs about resurrection, and they are grouped together. So too God has grouped certain Psalms together. For example, Psalm 2, the **Royal Psalm**. I will show you later how it had a place in Jewish ceremony, and how all those Psalms are about the king. We will study those Psalms to know what it means that God is King. The **Egyptian Hallel** were sung at the Feast of Tabernacles. That is all about deliverance from Egypt and how they rejoiced in their salvation. The **Psalms of Ascent** were sung as they went up the mountain to worship God during their three annual feasts. I will show you when we get there how each Psalm takes us further up the hill of God. Each Psalm takes you higher and higher in the knowledge of Him. They build on one another. They are wonderful Psalms. We will actually take the steps. How can I ascend in my knowledge of God? They are also called the **Pilgrim Psalms**. The **Hallelujah Psalms** are all praise Psalms and they are all together.

Next we have the topical Psalms, the **Imprecatory Psalms**. Imprecation really means to pronounce a **curse**. That will be fun. I will not give you much light on that, but those are the Psalms that say things like, “*Blessed shall he be who dashes your little children against the stones*” – all that cursing. How they prayed against their enemies that they would be destroyed! There is a whole group of Psalms like that. A whole group of Psalms that deal with confession of sin. We will study those as a group. The **Messianic Psalms** are incredible and I cannot wait to get to those.

Did you know that the fourteen Messianic Psalms are Psalms about Messiah? There is a Psalm about His pre-existence. There is one Psalm about His birth. One Psalm about His perfect life. One Psalm about His suffering. One Psalm about His death. One Psalm about His resurrection. One Psalm about His ascension. It follows the whole life and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. We will look at those Psalms. So that is how we are going to look at them – in the groups that God has put them in, and we will try to study them in terms of those groups.

One difference between your hymnal and the book of Psalms is that our hymnals are almost one hundred percent positive. In other words, we sing about praise and worship and adoration and testimony and so on. We do not often sing the blues. We do not sing much about sighing and groaning. But Psalms covers the whole gamut of human experience. We love singing: He reigns, He lives, He keeps, He controls, He provides, He is the faithful one. What happens when God is **far off**? We do not sing about that in our hymnals. They did. What happens when our hopes are disappointed and God seems not to deliver, and the heavens feel like brass and why isn't He listening, and He does not answer your prayers? We do not sing about that in our hymnals.

I wrote a little song last night. I thought you might like to hear it. “The bottom dropped out of everything – doo dah, doo dah. I'm a failure and let me sing. Oh, doo-dah-day. I am in despair. God never hears my prayer. Lord, hear my cry, I want to die”.....we do not sing that way! Look at Psalm 88 when you are in a good mood because that

will get you in a bad mood. The whole thing is gloom and despair, but they sang it. They went to church and they sang that way.

In Psalm 119, verse 62, it says, ***“At midnight I will rise and give thanks to Thee.”*** Midnight, in that context, is not the hour after 11pm, no not that midnight. He is talking about what has been called the **“dark night of the soul”**. He is talking about an experience, a trouble, and he says, ***“At midnight, in the middle of my night, I will rise up and praise the Lord.”*** That is how they did it in the Psalms, and it is a glorious thing. In Job 35, verse 10, He said, ***“God gives songs in the night.”*** A large part of Psalms teaches how to sing in the dark. If you miss that in Psalms, you will miss a great blessing for the weary soul.

I remember studying about singing unto the Lord at all times, and a brother came to see me. I will not give you the whole background, but he was so discouraged and he was broken. You know, his marriage had just gone on the rocks and he was destroyed. And he came hoping I had a word for him and seeking some type of encouragement. And I will tell you, I felt so parched and dry, I did not have anything to give him. He asked me: “What should I do?” I suggested that he go in the other room and write a song and then come out and teach me that song. Here is the song he wrote.

“Oh how the mighty have fallen,
God’s beautiful, oh how they are slain.
They are scattered before the enemy,
But they shall rise again.
The seed of the woman shall conquer,
The seed of the woman shall win,
The seed of the serpent has bruised me,
But I shall rise again.”

God used that. It was a wonderful experience in his life, and it is part of what God wants to do in the Psalms. He wants to teach us to sing and not just “Oh what a beautiful morning, oh what a beautiful day, oh what a beautiful feeling, everything is going my way.” What happens when everything is not going your way? Can you sing? Well, you see that is what Psalms is all about.

So let me give you my third observation. My first observation is it is a **long book**. My second observation is it is a **book of music**. The

third observation is this, Psalms has the most mentions of **God by Name**. We are going to get into some of those wonderful names. Jehovah and Adonai and El Shaddai and Elohim, ect. There are 150 Psalms, and 136 of 150 mention God in the first verse. That is how **God-centered** it is. You just begin and right away you turn to the Lord. Even the gloomy Psalms are all God-centered.

There is a group of Psalms called **Messianic Psalms**. Do not think out of 150 Psalms that only 14 are Messianic. **One hundred and fifty Psalms are Messianic**. They are all about Messiah. In a special way those 14 outline the life and ministry of our Lord, but **every Psalm is about Him**. One way to enter into that is to remember when they were sung. You see, they were sung at the temple worship. They were sung after the **lamb had been slain**. The backdrop of all of these songs is the **blood of the lamb** that had been slain.

I have one friend who does not like to sing the Psalms. You know, in our day there has been a resurgence of singing Psalms. He said, I do not want to sing the Psalms. I want to sing about Jesus. Wow! **The Psalms are about Jesus!** They are all about the Lord. He is the Jehovah that is in these books. If you study these Psalms as God has set them, in the background of temple worship, you will see how **Christ-centered** they are especially in terms of the blood of the lamb.

Someone says: Psalm 22, Psalm 69, those are Calvary Psalms. Oh, indeed they are, and we will look at those. You know, ***“My God, My God, why has Thou forsaken Me?”*** Wonderful Calvary Psalms. But I promise you this. **Every Psalm is a Calvary Psalm**. Every Psalm has the background of the sacrificial lamb. They are praises that were sung because the blood of the lamb was shed. So that is my third observation – it is God-centered. It is long. It is music. It is very, very God-centered.

Let me make two more observations, please. My fourth general observation is that since it is a book of poetry, it is full of **figures of speech**. The poet’s imagination is wonderful. The images are supremely rich and superbly glorious. Every figure of speech you can imagine is in

the Psalms. Allegories, metaphors, similes, hyperbole. It is all there. I will not discuss them now. We are going to take some samples when we get into the book, but just think about this. You can just glance down and see some of them:

“The apple of His eye”. “Hinds feet”. “Fine gold”. “Sweeter than the honeycomb”. “Whiter than snow”. “He is a sun and shield”. “We are the people of His pasture”. “The shadow of His wings”. “Covered with His pinions”. You see, it is a book of poetry. So we have all of these wonderful figures. “The valley of the shadow of death”. “The stream of God is full of water”. “He is the Rock of my habitation”. “My strength and my song”. “The hunter’s snare”. So many graphic pictures! “Driven like chaff”. “Everlasting hills”. “Your sins have been removed as far as the east is from the west”.

What graphic illustrations. Every figure of speech in the book of Psalms is designed to **show you the Lord**. And so that is my fourth observation.

My fifth observation is this. It is not only a song book, it is a **prayer book**. I cannot begin to tell you how many times I have been asked to Pray for Aunt Tilly, she has a bunion, and I do not know what to do. I do not know how to pray for Aunt Tilly. There are so many people that say will you pray for this or will you pray for that, and I do not know how to pray. So I have taken a position in my heart that I love to pray on **inspired ground**. What I mean by that is I pray the very words of Scripture. And, oh, when you pray the words of Scripture you know you are on solid ground.

I just love to pray these words: *“Father, glorify Thy name.” “Thy will be done.”* Some of those are a little general. But in the book of Psalms you have tons of these short one-liners, these sighs to God. Like, *“Make haste to help me, O God.”* I pray that over and over. That is just like, hurry up, God! I love to pray that. Psalm 3:7, *“Arise and save me, O my God.”* Do you know the shortest prayer in the Bible? Psalm 12:1. *“Help, Lord”* Psalm 38:22, *“Make haste to help me.”* Psalm 39:4, *“Make me know how transient I am.”* Oh, I pray that over and over and over again. Psalm 51:7 (I am wearing this one out!) *“Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.”* Just go through and learn to pray these things. Psalms 119:37, *“Turn my eyes away from looking at vanity.”* What a wonderful prayer that is. And I think if we study Psalms together and it

does not help our prayer life, we have missed a great contribution of this wonderful book. We need to look at the figures, but we also need to learn not only to sing, but to pray. I told you that Psalms covers a thousand years of human experience. Frustration and depression and **changing circumstances** and **failure** and **evil tidings** and **old age**. God covers everything.

Here is what I think is the theme of Psalms, and at least humor me as we go through the book of Psalms together. This is how we are going to look at it. **Psalms is a mirror of the soul.** You have a thousand years of human experience. There is not an emotion that you will ever go through in your life that is not touched somewhere in the Psalms. Do you ever notice when you did not know where to look in the Bible and you did not know what to read, you find yourself in Psalms? Everybody just seems to gravitate to the Psalms, and it is because you are there. That is you, and that is me, and Psalms touches you wherever you are and whatever you are going through. Every **feeling**. Every **thought**. Every **hope**. Psalms covers it all.

Now, there are several verses we could use as key verses. I am so glad God chose David to write these 73 or almost 80 Psalms. He was so qualified for this. Even though that man lived 3,000 years ago, that one man had the experience of more than 100 men. I think God crowded many experiences into his soul. And so we have his Psalms when he was out in the pasture. We have his Psalms when he was running for 10 years from Saul in the cave. We have his Psalms in the field as a soldier. We have his Psalms from the throne as he was the king in the palace. We have his Psalms in the temple as a worshiper. We have the Psalms when he was at the altar as a sinner broken and contrite before God. Every Psalm you can think of.

Here is the point of Psalms as I understand it. **God wants me to learn a new song with every changing experience.** The purpose of studying Psalms is to learn a new song. Psalm 95:1, ***“O come let us sing unto the Lord.”*** Psalm 104:33, ***“I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; as long as I have my being I will praise the Lord.”*** I love this one. Psalm 40, verse 3 ***“He has put a new song in my heart; many will see it***

and fear and trust in the Lord.” Wouldn’t you expect him to say, He put a new song in my heart; many will hear it? You hear a song. Oh no, not when God writes a song. Then you see it. ***“He has put a new song in my heart; many will see it.”*** You find someone that God has put a song in their heart, and you can see it. They just radiate. They radiate the Lord. That is what He wants to do.

I am going to use what I call my signature verse. Every time someone says, Will you sign this? I always use this signature verse. Psalm 25:14-15. I would like to take that as the key verse of Psalms. Especially 15. ***“My eyes are continually toward the LORD, for He will pluck my feet out of the net.”*** That is especially meaningful to me because for a long time in my Christian life my eyes were on my **feet**. How to **walk**. I wanted to learn how to walk as a Christian. My eyes are not on my feet anymore. Then I went into a whole time when my eyes were on the net and Satan and all of the pitfalls. My eyes are not on the net anymore. Psalm 25:15, ***“My eyes are continually toward the LORD, for He will pluck my feet out of the net.”*** If you have your eyes on the Lord, He will take care of your feet. If you have your eyes on the Lord, He will take care of the net. And so my eyes are continually on the Lord.

Listen to these verses and see what you see in common. It will not take long to catch on. Psalm 33:3: ***“Sing a new song to the Lord.”*** Psalm 96:1: ***“Sing a new song unto the Lord.”*** Psalm 98:1: ***“Sing to the Lord a new song for He has done wonderful things.”*** Psalm 44:9: ***“I will sing a new song unto Thee.”*** What is the point of Psalms? And the answer is to teach you a new song. You say, oh, I hate this thing I am going through! Do you know why you are going through it? God wants to teach you a new song. That is the point of Psalms. **Every time you have your eyes on the Lord, He writes a new song in your heart.** We are going to go through the many experiences in Psalms in order that God might teach us to sing in the day, in the night, in the rain, in the sunshine. At all times my eyes are continually on the Lord. Those who have learned to put their eyes on the Lord have learned to sing.

What does God want to accomplish in my heart through the book of Psalms? He wants to make me a **singing Christian**. What does He want to accomplish in your heart? He wants to make you a singing Christian, a praising Christian. It is just glorious to be in the presence of someone who is praising the Lord and who is always singing – a rejoicing Christian.

So, for every mood of your soul God has a new song. It makes me think of Psalm 59. It says, ***“Without changes, they fear not God.”*** Aren’t you glad to change? If you knew how to change you would not trust the Lord. And so God keeps changing everything for you in order that you might fear Him and He will put a new song in your heart.

Let me close with this little testimony. I have a lot of commentaries on Psalms. One of my favorites is from Albert Barnes. Are you familiar with him? He was a Presbyterian commentator and he lived in the last century. Anyway, what Albert Barnes said is: **I want to fall asleep with the harp of David.** Here is what he meant by that. I have all of his commentaries. He wrote commentaries on every book of the Bible just about. The one thing I like about Albert Barnes is when he comes to a passage and it is confusing, he says, I do not know. I like that. When a commentator just admits he doesn’t know!

Anyway, he wrote all these books. I have all of his books. But he decided to make Psalms the last study of his life. He said, “I do not know when I will die”. But he said, “I know this. I will never write again after Psalms”. He wanted to make that his last study. And so he did. And he studied for twelve years and wrote concerning the Psalms. He lived several years after that, but he said I will not pick up my pen again. He said, “I am going out singing. **I want to die with the harp of David**”. And as he drew near to God through the book of Psalms, he said that he had never been happier in the Lord because Psalms was making him sing all the time.

The message of Psalms is this. God wants to give you a **new song**. He wants to write a **song in your heart**. I want you to see the big pictures and beautiful images. I want to do the groups of Psalms with you. But most of all I want you to see the Glory of God in the face of His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.