

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY NOTES

Grace and Peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;... 2 Peter 1:2

Making Your Heart an Instrument of Praise

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Matthew 6:9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. **10** 'Your kingdom come. **Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.**'

John 17:22 "The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, **that they may be one, just as We are one;** **23** I in them and You in Me, **that they may be perfected in unity**, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.

- The prayer that Jesus prayed for the church, that they would be one, is based upon the principles of music.

Chord: A chord consists of 3 or more notes played simultaneously creating a Harmonious sound.

Harmony: the combination of simultaneously sounded musical notes that produce a chord. The musical equivalent of Unity

- Harmony is also the combination of any parallel narrative that produces a single narrative... Gospels...

Dischord: Disagreement, void of harmony. God considers the sowing of discord one of the several abominations He hates.

Prov 6:19

- Complaining is discord, not harmony.
- When you complain you are not playing the notes which form the chord that God is playing
- Complaining disrupts the flow of heaven on earth
- Jesus said we are to pray that God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
- In Revelation Chapter 4 the Apostle John gives us a glimpse into heaven
- In heaven all the creatures, angels, and the 24 elders, are all simultaneously praising God creating a harmonious sound of praise
- All of heaven is simultaneously Giving Thanks and flowing in harmony, playing the chord of thanksgiving
- If Gods' will is going to be done on earth as it is in heaven, it must begin with us flowing in harmony with heaven.

Paul explains this very clearly in Ephesians Chapter 5:

Ephesians 5:19 KJV - Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing **and making melody in your heart to the Lord;**

- It is more than just singing praise songs
- It goes so much deeper
- We are instructed to make melody in our hearts
- If our hearts are not singing the praise of God in an attitude of gratitude, what good is singing going to do?

John 4:23 "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.

This is the Attitude and Lifestyle that produces powerful prayers and Glorious lives:

Psalm 100:3 Know that the LORD Himself is God; It is He who has made us, and not we ourselves; [We are] His people and the sheep of His pasture. **4** Enter His gates with thanksgiving [And] His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him, bless His name.

- **Hearts filled with Thanksgiving is the Key that gets us into His gates**
- **Praise is the escort that guides us into His inner courts**
- **Complaining and murmuring will only serve to lock the gates, and bar us from His courts**

When Moses sent out the 12 spies to survey the promised land the polar difference between the harmonious hearts of gratitude, and the discord of hearts poisoned with complaining becomes so very clear:

Joshua and Caleb were of a different Spirit the bible says, and they saw things through the eyes of hope, while the ten other spies whose hearts were poisoned with murmuring and complaining, saw only the negative:

Numbers 13:30 Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses and said, "We should by all means go up and take possession of it, for we will surely overcome it."

Numbers 13:31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are too strong for us." **32** So they gave out to the sons of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone, in spying it out, is a land that devours its inhabitants; and all the people whom we saw in it are men of [great] size.

- **Nothing good, and no spiritual value can come from a heart that is not making a melody within itself**

1 Corinthians 10:1 For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; **2** and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; **3** and all ate the same spiritual food; **4** and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ. **5** Nevertheless, with most of them God was not well-pleased; for they were laid low in the wilderness. **6 Now these things happened as examples for us**, so that we would not crave evil things as they also craved.

1 Corinthians 10:9 Nor let us try the Lord, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the serpents. **10** Nor grumble, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. **11** Now these things happened to them as an example, **and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.**

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

- **Do not allow the trials of life to become temptations from the devil, to cause you to murmur and complain**
- **These same trials that the devil uses to tempt you, are the same trials God uses to strengthen you.**

Isaiah 43:2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you.

- **This is how steel is tempered and made strong**
- **It is taken from the fire into the water**

- And then from the water back into the fire
- This process that would destroy almost any other material only serves to make the steel stronger
- And the heart that is making a melody within itself, will sing through the entire process

Life Changing Testimony

Testify: *edud -to do it again.* The Hebrews believed that when one testifies, the same power that was present to do the miracle in the first place, is present when the one who received the miracle testifies to it!

Hebrews 11:1 KJV - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

- A murmuring heart is a heart that is not operating in faith
- A complaining heart, is a heart that is looking at things the way they are, and not the way they are to be
- We are supposed to walk by faith and not by sight

Luke 17:1 He said to His disciples, "It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come,..."

Luke 17:3 "Be on your guard! If your brother sins, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. **4** "And if he sins against you seven times a day, and returns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' forgive him."

Luke 17:5 The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

Luke 17:6 And the Lord said, "If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and be planted in the sea'; and it would obey you.

- A mulberry tree has strong roots, and not easily moved
- It is a tree that produces annoyance
- Mulberry Trees release berries for weeks on end disrupting everything around it
- The berries make terrain slippery and stain everything
- They draw unwanted birds and other animals which add to the inconvenience
- In other words, It is a tree that produces complaining

Jesus Said:

If you had faith like a mustard seed, not the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this tree...

- When the mustard seed is tossed into the dirt
- It gets covered by pebbles which are even larger than it is
- Then the wind blows even more dirt on top of that and surrounds the seed with particles weightier than it is
- It then finds itself in a dark place, where no light is even visible
- All it can see is obstacles and setbacks and barriers

But the Mustard Seed is not looking without, it is looking within:

- It knows something nobody else knows
- It sees things nobody else can see
- Inside this seed is a knowing that it is bigger than its challenges
- It is stronger than its obstacles
- It knows this because, it knows God has made it so
- This, which would destroy any other seed, only empowers the mustard seed to do the impossible

Though the mustard seed may cry for a moment, it knows God will not abandon it to this place of darkness:

Listen to the Song of the Mustard Seed:

Psalm 13:1 For the choir director. A Psalm of David. How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? **2** How long shall I take counsel in my soul, [Having] sorrow in my heart all the day? How long will my enemy be exalted over me?

Psalm 13:3 Consider [and] answer me, O LORD my God; Enlighten my eyes, or I will sleep the [sleep of] death, **4** And my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," [And] my adversaries will rejoice when I am shaken.

Psalm 13:5 But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. **6** *I will sing to the LORD, Because He has dealt bountifully with me.*

Psalm 96:1 *Sing to the LORD a new song; Sing to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Sing to the LORD, bless His name; Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day.*

- **There is a cure for the complaining heart**
- **There is a way of comfort and refreshing for the heart struggling to harmonize with the chord of heaven**

James 3:2 For we all stumble in many [ways.] If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

- **In so many ways James is simply saying, that he that controls his tongue is able to control his whole body as well**

James 3:8 But no one can tame the tongue; [it is] a restless evil [and] full of deadly poison. **9** With it we bless [our] Lord and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the likeness of God;

James 3:10 from the same mouth come [both] blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be this way.

The Cure:

Jude 1:20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

- **Our mind says this, but our Spirit says that.**
- **As we pray in the Spirit, we bring our minds under the control of the Spirit, and we begin to see, and to pray with our understanding, the things of the Spirit.**
- **Paul said, I will pray with my spirit and with my understanding 1 Cor. 14:15**

1 Corinthians 14:21 In the Law it is written, "BY MEN OF STRANGE TONGUES AND BY THE LIPS OF STRANGERS I WILL SPEAK TO THIS PEOPLE, AND EVEN SO THEY WILL NOT LISTEN TO ME," says the Lord.

Isaiah 28:11 KJV - For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. **12** To whom he said, *This [is] the rest [wherewith] ye may cause the weary to rest; and this [is] the refreshing:...*