



JULY 6-11, 2020
SESSION 3: PSALM 119:33-48

HOMEWORK (one hour of your choice)

OPENING THOUGHTS

What is something that you've been responsible for growing in your life?
(plant, company, physical strength, etc.)

What did you do to contribute to the growth?
What else was required to accomplish the growth?

In every situation, we require more than ourselves for growth. For a company to grow, it needs strong leadership, but also buy-in from employees. Plants need people to water them, but they also need good soil for seeding. Physical strength requires personal discipline, but also guidance from the outside on best practices for growing strong. The same is true for our spiritual life. To grow into maturity, we need God to meet us in our need, which is what we're going to see in our session today.

READ

Psalm 119:33-48

WATCH

Session 3 Video (15:30 minutes)

ANSWER

(DISCUSSION PREP)

Verses 33-40 (part 1 - desires of David's heart)

What we see in the first eight verses we're studying in this session is an increasing awareness of our need for God to transform our posture toward His Word. Verse 33 begins with David asking the Lord to help him remain obedient to the end - a prayer we can all relate to.

In what ways have you grown more disciplined in "keeping" His Word?
Where do you find yourself struggling with consistency?

Matt observed that all of us could confess ways in which our obedience to God is half-hearted.

What are some areas in your life where you find full obedience most difficult?
What are some of the factors blocking that obedience?
(Fear, pride, lack of understanding, etc.)



Like Matt said, we're not to be lazy about our obedience, but the reality is that true obedience requires the transformative power of God.

***Having watched this session, has the Holy Spirit convicted you of any ways that you are trying to obey apart from God's transforming power?
How would your efforts change if you asked God to change your heart?***

Verses 36–37 ask for the Lord to bring about two similar ends. David prays that God would cause him to hate selfish gain and turn his eyes from worthless things so that it would grant him the freedom to pursue God's ways. As Matt shared, all of us have to contend with the temptation toward using what God has given for selfish gain.

What do you find yourself most tempted to use for your own purposes rather than in service to the Lord?
(money, time, influence, etc.)

***What would it look like to devote that resource more fully toward God's purposes?
What would need to change about your life currently?***

Hating selfish gain requires God to transform us so that we turn away from dwelling on what is worthless, which is where David focuses his attention in verse 37.

What are some of the "worthless things" we pursue instead of chasing after the things of God?
(sex, wealth, fame, etc.)

Like Matt pointed out, everything David has requested up to this point requires a work of God from within. The same is true for us. If we hope for any external change, we need the Lord to transform us from the inside out, which begins with the fear of God.

***How have you experienced the fear of God in your own life?
In what ways did it affect you?***

Verses 41-48 (part 2 - fruit of David's prayers)

Matt explained that one of the primary roots of this fear is a deeper fear of being rejected. It's especially so for those of us who struggle with perfectionism.



How have you dealt with a fear of rejection in your own life?

Through faith in Jesus Christ, God doesn't simply like us—He adopts us as His children, members of His family. We belong to Him and He becomes our hope.

Where are you in need of God to supply you with boldness to overcome your fears?

Like Matt observed, in today's culture we are far more comfortable with doubt than we are with certainty, especially when it comes to the topic of faith.

In what ways do you experience doubt? How do you respond to the doubts in your life?

We belong to a loving Father who desires that we come to Him with our doubts. Experiencing doubt is not a sin, but it does present a choice of whether we will turn to God for confidence or away from Him in fear.

Where do you need God to create confidence in you today?

LIVE IT OUT

Pray: Each day this week, pray the prayer of the father in Mark 9:24 and trust that God will help your unbelief.

List: Write down at least 2–3 specific items you are asking God to accomplish in your life. Place them somewhere that you will regularly see them in order to pray daily over them and rejoice when God responds to your prayers.

Reflect: Take some time this week to reflect on your life before Christ and how He has transformed you since. Be encouraged by the work He has done in you and allow the Holy Spirit to minister to your heart as you resolve to pursue Christ.

Give: Recall whatever you identified as the thing you're most tempted to use for your own purposes rather than in service to the Lord (money, time, influence, etc.). Find a practical way this week to intentionally devote a portion of that in service to God and as a blessing to those around you.

Draw: If you have a creative leaning, draw an image of what you believe best pictures a biblical fear of God. Hang the image in a place for you to see it daily so that you can be reminded of the freedom that comes with fearing the Lord.

GROUP MEETING

Zoom (Saturday, July 11, 9-10pm)

