

I want us to imagine an artist standing over a piece of clay. Just imagine a clay right here. And the master craftsman is at his bench. Every mold that he presses in, every pressure that he dumps into that piece of clay, it's done deliberately for a specific purpose. The clay doesn't form itself. In other words, it yields to the hands of the maker.

In the Hebrew scriptures, which we'll be going over the 10th stanza of Psalm 119, we come to the letter Yod. This word yod is the smallest letter of the Hebrew alphabet. It's similar to an apostrophe in the English language, that little thing that floats at the end. I'm going to use the Rodriguez's for example. You would put it after the Z. What Jesus called a jot. And I'm going to review what the Lord Jesus said about this jot in Matthew 5:18. He says, "For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tit shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled." Let me just back it up and read verse 17 to give the whole context. You see, Christ fulfills the law. Verse 17, think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets, for I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. Amen.

Yet, this little shape, this little yod is actually originally depicting a human hand. Let me just draw kind of to your attention. It would be as from the arm down to the elbow to your hand. And that's the form of the alphabet yod. So it's this down here to the hand. So imagine two hands, two arms working on a clay. That's the picture of this word yod. And it is a physical action associated with the hands which we're going to see in these verses in the 10th stanza. What the psalmist does here is he's going to speak poetically and he's going to do it in prayer in the form of prayer. He's going to arrange these eight verses for us so that every line begins with the word yod and that is with all the stanzas starts with the letter that is given in the text. So he declares to us with this alphabet that you are formed, that you are held, and that you are guided by the hand of almighty God.

As humans, we are shaped by all areas of our lives, right? We don't just consume of let's say finance or our physique or our spiritual life. No, no, it's all areas of our life. No, no, it's all areas of our lives that makes us who we are. And we're going to see how God in his wisdom shapes all areas of our lives to be conformed into the image of Christ ultimately. That we are displaying him Christ in our lives.

But I want you to think about this. We yet we so often in our life because all not all life is smooth as many of us are aware of. The longer you live, the more you see, the more you feel the afflictions. But you know when they hit you they hit you if life feels somewhat out of control, doesn't it? Think of all the times that affliction hit, it feels like you were out of control. Hold that thought. That feeling of out of control in your afflictions. And then think of our natural instinct is to take matters into our own hands. You see that? We try to fix the situation ourselves. We try to put things together and it all just kind of looks a mess. Isn't that right? If you're honest with yourself, you'll say that is true. We act as though we are on our own, left to navigate a harsh world alone.

But the psalmist and every believer in Christ in this room turns his eyes away from his hands and looks upward to the almighty hands and trusts him to form us. Form us in every area of our

life from the top all the way to the bottom to all the areas of our lives. In our deception, we think our hands are more mightier than God's hands. That's the most deceptive thing that we can fall into. The trap every time we're afflicted. So out of respect for God's word, let's learn how a believer in Christ is supposed to deal with affliction by the almighty hand of God and how he chooses to shape us. Amen. Let us stand as I read from verses 73 to 80 from the book of Psalm 119. Psalm 119 verse starting with 73 to 80. God's word says this, "Thy hands have made me and fashioned me. Give me understanding that I may learn thy commandments. They that fear thee will be glad when they see me because I have hoped in thy word. I know, O Lord, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me. Let I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant. Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live, for thy law is my delight. Let the proud be ashamed, for they doubt perversely with me without a cause, but I will meditate in thy precepts. Let those that fear thee turn unto me, and those that have known thy testimonies. Let my heart be sound and thy statutes that I be not ashamed. Amen. So God is that's the wonderful words of God's word. You may be seated.

I want us to look at the first two stanzas or rather two verses. Beginning in verse 73 to 74, I want you to pay attention to the phrase, "Thy hands have made me and fashioned me." This is how he starts this prayer. Thy hands have made me and fashioned me. He uses human form, right? Hands to describe God's divine power through the use of hands. He affirms God's absolute ability to take care of our physical and spiritual needs over using your own hands. This is the way our creator designed us to trust him to allow his hands to form and shape us. He rejects any thought of being a product of random chance that that this clay of us is somehow formed randomly. I mean talk to any designer that's of any good use. I mean just think of your phone. Did all those parts come randomly? No. There was a designer that designed the very device that you hold in your pocket. And so we got to understand that that there's a deliberate purpose in God's way of shaping us with the way he uses his hands. And we're going to see this through the text and how he does this so marvelously, so beautifully, so tenderly by his mercies. So notice the sequence. God is his maker, our maker as believers in Christ. And then he goes on he says that God is also his rightful teacher in the word of fashioned. You see that in text. So he not only made us our maker but he is our teacher. He fashions us. He puts the clay into a a form and he designs it marvelously. The psalmist does not merely ask to be delivered from his outside circumstances. No, he asks that he may understand to learn God's commandments, meaning his instructions. If I do this, Lord, what would happen to me? Lord, if you do this in my life, what would happen to me? Two outcomes, two different out uh two two different out uh two two different out uh two inputs. Our hands, his hands, two different outputs. Either we listen to his commands or and his instructions or we listen to someone else's commands or even our own foolish thoughts and think that it's better. No, we must think of him as the maker as well as the teacher.

In Luke 24:45, we observe the Lord Jesus appearing to his disciples shortly after rising from the dead that all of the laws and the prophets and the psalms point to his death, to his resurrection on the third day and the future preaching of forgiveness to all nations. Jesus Christ and is he is the one that opens our understanding in verse 45 that they might understand the scriptures. You

see Christ lifting up raised from the dead and then we look at him and that's how we understand scripture. Do you see that? We can't understand scripture without Christ from beginning to end. We cannot understand without seeing Christ before our eyes so that we may understand the scriptures. We understand scriptures by looking to him.

Think of a piece of pottery again as an example here. The wheel is spinning. That's what the pottery does. It it it's put into this thing and it spins around and it's being shaped and pressed and heated at the end. To an outside observer, the clay is being squeezed. It's been scorched. But in the hands of the master potter, every press of the finger has a specific purpose to make the vessel number one functional. He makes us to be functional and then to be made beautiful. It's beautiful when we do what God says the way he specifically instructs us. Everything outside of his instruction does not look beautiful. It looks like a mess. So remind yourself of the psalmist prayer to redesign to rebuild our lives when we are a mess. We're going through some sort of affliction and try to do it outside of God's design namely found in verse 73. We actually tear down our life rather than building it up. When you encounter confusion or hardship, do not run to your thoughts first. That's the first wisdom given here. He goes to prayer first. As soon as affliction hits, he goes to prayer. He doesn't even allow his thoughts to insinuate, oh, I'll take care of it with my own hands. No, he reminds himself, "No, God, you made me and you're going to keep forming me and shaping me in the way you see fit." That's the idea. Lord, you made me. Now give me understanding to live according to your truth. Let your truth be lived out and how you formed me and shaped me. Now look at verse 75, if you will. And we're going to look at this from because I have hoped in thy word. And then we're going to go to the first phrase. And I I want you to see it this way. So the psalmist declares here in the second phrase of verse 74, because I have hoped in thy word. Let's just focus in that phrase. His trust in God's promises was so firm that he calculated his deliverance before it even took place. God's going to help me through this. I know I can I can hope in his word. I can hope in him before moving anything in his life. He anticipates this sort of level of trust internally before he shares it with the public. Do you see that? Remember I said this morning that you need to have that internal confirmation or validation before you get external, not the other way around. This is the same idea. I hoped in thy word. That's an internal confirmation. And then you declare publicly the other part which is this. Notice it. They that fear thee will be glad when they see me. External. You see that? They're going to be glad when they see me. When someone is hoping in God's word, they will be glad. Right? How many times have you gone through some difficulty and you're just so rooted in God's word that you're so enveloped in the word of God that you don't even think about your affliction? Yes, it's coming, but it's not affecting you to hurt you, to make you depressed, to make you down, but that you're encouraged. That's why somebody can be glad when they see you. Why? It wouldn't make sense, right? If you were depressed and downtrodden, why would someone be glad to see you? I'm talking about scripture here and how God's word works in our lives internally. Something displays out of that that no other thing can do except God's word that you can be glad in your trials. You don't need any external validation to get that joy. Amen. Just trust in God's promises. Be firm. Hoped. That's firm. Guaranteed God's going to work in your life. He's going to help you. And they that fear thee, meaning respect the word of God. This is talking about other believers that respect the word of God, they're going to be glad. Oh yes. Amen, brother. Amen, sister in Christ. Yeah. You know what

God's word can do in your life. You see, his steadfast perseverance, just like we in our steadfast perseverance amidst hardship, serves as a living testimony. This is a living testimony that is to encourage and to strengthen your faith and the faith of other believers. What a way that God can use and the way he shapes us and fashions us. You see, you never know who is watching you through a storm that you're going through. Maybe a younger Christian, someone just recently turned to Christ for salvation and is a just young in the faith. Or it can be a child who's observing you and watching every step that you make. Or it can be a neighbor. And I explained all the things of what a neighbor is. I won't go into it tonight, but a neighbor observing how you react when bad news comes when they see you that you are anchored anchoring yourself in the word of God. Rather than falling into despair, your faith becomes a true lighthouse, a beacon of hope, something to be glad about. This is what it means in 1 Peter 3:15 to be ready always to give an answer to every man that ask you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. Meaning you answer in this way. You answer with an humble attitude. I don't know what God is doing here but I trust him. I trust him through the storm. See that is how to share then the good news of what Jesus Christ has done and is currently doing in your life. This becomes a way of life for every believer in Christ. Another thing is when we gather as a church family and we get opportunities to share the Lord Jesus Christ and what he is doing in our lives. That is what the word fellowship means. We're fellowshipping. We're fellows in Christ. We get to share the blessings what God is doing. Yes, I said blessing when he's forming us because he's sustaining us through all of our trials. And it brings a relief and joy knowing that God is taking care of us. We have people that cannot be in this room because they are going through some form of affliction. You know who they are. We're praying for them, aren't we? And I can assure you of this. If I were to ask them, are you ready to go to heaven on what grounds? And they're a believer in Christ, they would say, only on the grounds of Jesus Christ. And I can say, yes, that's the joy. That's the joy of every pastor that is having to see pain and life storms. It's difficult in the moment, but it's just for a moment. And I'm not saying it in any way that I can know what's going to happen to someone's life, but I can tell you that is the way I'm preparing myself because you know what? Every one of us is going to come to that place, aren't we? Every one of us is coming to that moment. It's for us to think about what grounds are you resting on to get you to heaven and are you ready based on those grounds? Are you being are you ready to be received by Christ? That's the day that I look forward to and I hope you look forward to it. Right, believers in Christ, that is what we look forward to. That's what hope becomes real and we no longer have to have hope. We no longer have to have faith but love remains as it says in 1 Corinthians. That is the way we live victoriously day by day in our lives. And we can trust our savior. He's going to help us save us through all sorts of storms. Right? I told you it's not just salvation in our beginning of our life, the new birth, but he's constantly saving us from storms. Because I continue to come to us. Your trial is not just about you. I could put it plainly, it's not about you. Your trials is not just about you. The psalmist is helping us here to get off of ourselves the naval gazing. Remember that to live and suffer with the awareness that your steadfast hope in God's word can bring gladness and courage to those who are in awe of God. Think about it. The God of the universe who spoke life into existence hears and answers prayers. Yes, as one brother put it this evening, he gives you the strength to follow through with his word and the courage to live out the word of God visibly in your life. That's him giving you strength to have joy through the storm. That's him giving you the courage to continue

to step one foot at a time, to walk by faith and not by sight. This is just the first half or beginning of this prayer. Let's continue verse 75 to verse 77. Look down with me in verse 75. The psalmist makes a striking confession here in his prayer. Thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me. Who's the one that's afflicting him? God. That's what he makes here. And he says he's faithful. Don't dismiss that word. He's faithful. He does not attribute his sufferings to random or meaningless cruelty by no means. He recognizes the full control of God's hands and full control of his power within his hands and is all done in a loving way. Every press is for express his love for you. That's him. This is where many people have a hard time struggling with. So God puts this for us as a timeless piece of encouragement that you can be in prayer in your times of affliction and you're processing this in prayer and the Lord is going to teach you with an understanding that there is a purpose my son my daughter behind this affliction that you will trust my loving hands. And then you will trust my loving hands. And then he goes on in verse 76 and 77. He doesn't demand immediate removal of this trial again to a natural person. Doesn't make sense. It doesn't make sense. But we go on and we see this is what happens to a believer. He prays that the Lord will allow the affliction to be the very thing to minister his merciful kindness and his tender mercies. You see that his merciful kindness and tender mercies behind affliction. The Hebrew term for merciful kindness is at work has said we've used it in the past. Steadfast love, loving kindness, it's repeated here. It's a good word to remind ourselves of because his word is important. It's God's unwavering covenant love for every child of God. His love for us does not wax and wane like our love. No, it's unwavering covenantal love. His love never changes for you. His prayer for tender mercy is a plea for God's gentle, paternal, fatherly compassion to sustain his very breath so that he may live and delight in God's law. In other words, God is merciful, kind, and tender. And it's for me and you to understand that he is. You wait on the Lord, but you understand it that way. That is his tender mercy and it is his kindness. You see as a father and as many fathers in this room can attest to this truth. You and I can relate when we discipline our children and I had to do this this evening. It is out of love for correction for their ultimate good. And it's hard when our children do not understand in the moment this ultimate good, this correction. And if they are old enough to speak to you, you have them explain why the correction was needed. Speak back to me, child. I want you to understand why I'm doing this. Thank God my child does understand. I'm sorry. I'm sorry for doing this. You teach them like God teaches us. Amen. To understand. There's two ways that God corrects us. Number one, a quick precision work. And then secondly, a slow refining work. I want us to look at those two. Number one, the quick precision work. I use this illustration of the scalpel and I want to use it here because it's applicable here as well. Imagine a surgeon cuts open a patient not to harm them but to heal them and remove what is toxic, the cancer within. To an onlooker, the wound looks painful, but the incision is made in complete faithfulness and precision. God's refining afflictions are surgical, meant to cut away. This is it. Self-reliance. You can't fix that. Let me fix it. This is the way God's faithfulness is performed. He works and works, cutting away the self-reliance in our lives, draws us back to his grace. I'm the giver of all things. I'm the giver of all things. Remind of yourself of that. God never makes a mistake with his scalpel. And he perfectly knows how to remove what is still sinful in our lives and puts the right amount of pain to make you aware of that God is good both when he gives us blessings and afflictions. And let me just remind afflictions back then they didn't have what we have today as anesthetics. We live in a very sterile world in that regards. Many times we numb it, whether it be entertainment or drugs

or even sex. We try to pleasure ourselves through the affliction. And that's not how originally we were to deal with the afflictions. We're supposed to feel the pain. How much are you allowing God to show you how painful it is to live with selfreliance? How much are you willing to work to bring that pain out? How long? He wants to do a quick work in this regards. He knows. He knows exactly what's going to kill you spiritually. And if you're lost, he knows what ultimately will kill you. God never makes a mistakes with the scalpel. He perfectly knows how to remove what is sinful and puts the right amount of pain. God is good both when he gives us blessings and afflictions. Do you see God is good in afflictions? Second, they go on from the quick work, the precision work of removing sin out of our lives to the slow refining work. Slow refining work. God uses us similar to how gold is heated in a furnace to burn away the dross the the impurities. The refiner never leaves the furnace unattended. He's always watching. He's always working. He sits by the fire watching closely until he can see his own reflection in the molten metal. God allows the heat of affliction in our lives to refine us until his image shines clearly through us. Namely, the image of Christ. The image of Christ in his character. Spurgeon once said this. The holier a man becomes, the more he mourns over his unholiness which remains in him. The holier man becomes, the more he mourns over his unholiness which still remains. Similar to what the Apostle Paul told us that he was the chiefest of sinners. He that he was the chiefest of sinners. He sees everything in the light. And he can say, "I'm the chiefest of sinners. I see so much sin." Holiness is like getting closer to the light. When you walk into a bright room, you notice the dust, the little dust even hidden in the dark room. Right? In the same way, drawing closer to God's holiness reveals all the small faults in our lives and in our hearts. But here's the thing, you not necessarily have more sin inside you than before. Rather, you see what is there much more clearly and it grieves you deeply. That's what mourning is. We grieve over our sins. You see, mature believers realize how much they constantly depend on God's mercy, how much we need to depend more upon him. That's when you are a mature believer. When all that self-reliance is quickly removed, when you when when God sees more Christ in you, that's when God is working. That's when God is working for his glory and for your ultimate good. Let's look at verse 78 to verse 80. Here we see the psalmist faces the opposition from the crowd. So now we're pivoting from what he is experiencing in his life back to what is going on and people looking and observing at his life and how God is working and shaping in his life and he's going through this affliction. It's like as if we're in the scene of Job and his three friends and they're going, "Oh, this is why this is happening." And oh, this is why this is happening. And it's, "Oh, yeah, you're not close to God." You know, actually the exact opposite, the more you're closer to God, the more you're going to say all these things. Yeah, I I'm a I'm a chiefest of sinners like the Apostle Paul. I am so unholy. And the crowd looks at you. What's wrong with you? They don't understand because they're in rebellion against God. And they re they harden their hearts for God working in their lives. And so they slander him. They make all sorts of lies. They don't know what God is doing in his life or your life. By then taking vengeance into his own hands or trading insults for insults, the psalmist and every believer in Christ hands his offense over to God. Look at the phrase, "Let the proud be ashamed." God move in their lives to make them feel ashamed. That's what it means. And chooses to meditate. Instead of going and going and arguing over these things again, we see this again and again and again. He goes back to the word. This is where I need to spend my energy. This is where I need to spend my focus. This is where I need to grow. He chooses to meditate on God's precepts. How we are to live and how we're to

behave according to God's instructions and commands. The expectation is that as you have learned how God works through afflictions and refines your life, you would also then desire that they would understand as well. Right? If you're a true believer in Christ, even you will look at the proud and go, "Ah, God, let them feel ashamed of what they're doing. Let them be humbled by what you're doing in my life." It goes, it goes back to God. It goes, it goes back to God. God, you care for me. You know what you're doing and you would even use me to help them feel ashamed. And then verse 79, he prays for spiritual uh community around him. So just imagine he got real believers in Christ and going, "Dad, I know what you're going through. I know what you're going through, brother and sister in Christ. I know it cuz I'm going through it, too." And so now we see a different group of people. It's the believers in Christ. They're godly and they would then gather rather with those godly people, right? Who are the closest around you? If you're a believer in Christ, it's the godly around you, right? It's those that understand your afflictions and share in your testimonies. And so, you can trust God that he will surround you then with people that understand what you're going through. For God is good and works through the believers in Christ in your life. That's a promise. He will bring people that you can share and they will understand. And then he goes on, he ends in verse 80 with a vital prayer going back to himself for his integrity. His integrity is that he says, "Let my heart be sound in thy statutes." Here the word sound is an undivided genuinely caring pure before God kind of heart and only God lets us as believers in Christ have this kind of a heart. By the way, you cannot manufacture this kind of a heart. Only God can give you this kind of heart, a sound heart. The psalmist and for us as believers are ultimately we don't fear man and being embarrassed publicly by man by our enemies. But this is what we actually care about. This is what a sound heart looks like. We care more about being hyp uh hypocritical that actually we're not living out what we say what we confess what we profess as a believer in Christ that's more he says more fear for that than what all the accusations false lies that come at him you see that you see how important and vital this is for us to remind ourselves of because after all he is before his maker he is accountable to God and God alone like the psalmist oftentimes repeat I'm it's just God you see everything you know exactly what I'm going through yes these people might have a some idea but they don't know fully what I'm going through and what I desire to do this is the goal for all of us that we are accountable primarily to God and not to people. As best as those that surround us that are believers in Christ, you don't put your trust in them. So he goes and he says, "God, thank you for these people, but I need to go back to you. I thank you for this, but I know that I'm ultimately accountable to you. And if I do that right, then this will go work out right." Amen. But if you try to get this right and then forget about this again, disordered loves, a disordered life, external exchange for the internal confirmation first and foremost. So how can we then look at all of this that we just read of this stanza and see the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ? Because you might be thinking, okay, yes, I ended it with that verse in verse 80 that yes, God gives you a sound heart. But what's behind the sound heart? You may ask. How did we get a sound heart? I must share the gospel here. I must share the gospel. He said, on our own, our hearts are like Jeremiah 17:9, deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Who can know it? Meaning we are prone to dishonesty. We're prone to dishonesty and we have a sickness that cannot be fixed on our own. That's what Jeremiah 17:9 is saying. And Jeremiah ends with the rhetorical question. Who can know it or who can understand this? It's a it's a rhetorical question again that only God can correctly diagnose our heart and fix our hearts.

Amen. We cannot make our own hearts sound or keep God's statutes blameless in our flesh. When affliction strikes, our natural tendency is to complain, retaliate, or lose hope. That's how the C4 heart is. That's how dishonest our heart is and that's how sick our hearts are. But thank be thanks be to God for the Lord Jesus Christ. And the good news that he is the ultimate fulfillment of this passage. Remember I said he is a fulfillment of the prophets and the psalms. See, it's his hands, the very hands that created the universe that were stretched out and were nailed to a Roman cross for our transgressions, for our sins, instead of his hands coming down on us with wrath. No, his hands are wide open to show his mercy on the cross. Jesus was the only one whose heart was truly sound perfectly and he was blameless perfectly in all of God's statutes. Yet he was afflicted in absolute faithfulness. He did things according to God's plan for our salvation. And the suffering that he had he who went through unjustly for he was sinless at the hands of the proud deceitful men and he did it without retaliation. He did not bring down his wrath. No, he continued to extend mercy after mercy after mercy after mercy with his hands wide open. On the cross, he bore our sins. He washed us clean with his precious blood so that we might receive God's tender mercy and be received by being thoroughly cleansed to have eternal life. For without his blood, we have no life. Among many things, the Holy Spirit then enters into us and helps us as believers in Christ. The very spirit that dwelt in Christ is now breathed upon us. The Lord Jesus promised to be present with us by the Holy Spirit's help dwelling in every believer's life to understand and remember God's word. This is what John 14:26 says. Words of Christ. But the comforter which is the Holy Ghost whom the father will send in my name. He shall teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance whatsoever I have said unto you. That's a promise. That's a promise. And then he another text and the words of Paul in Romans 8:26, someone who has lived with the Holy Spirit for some time understood the the spirit told him to write this. The Holy Spirit will help us when we are weak and we're hurting or don't know how to pray by coming in and lifting the heavy the heavy load heavy the heavy load and fulfilling even the deepest needs of our soul that we our words cannot even express. Let me read the text for you. Likewise, the spirit also helpeth our infirmities. For we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings, deep needs which cannot be uttered. He knows every deep need that you have in your soul. And he intercedes for us because God's hands fashioned us. As I said in verse 73, we can trust his words to mold us to every seasons of life. And so when you face then an situation where sense feels like unfair, God, they don't know what I'm really going through or you're going through a painful trial that you may not fully understand without the spirit's help or a moment of confusion. God, why did this storm hit me? I I think I am good with you, Lord. Resist. Resist at that moment the urge to react instantly in the flesh. Pray. The Holy Spirit will prompt you to pray. Amen. He will prompt you and he will be right there for you, interceding for you. Your words may not come out. You're like, I don't know, Lord. What is going on? I love what Apostle Paul said. He understands the utterances, the groanings in that moment. You see, he's praying this in the moment. It's not afterwards. It's it's it's the trials he's being faced with and he's going, "I don't know." And the Holy Spirit helps him. You know, all the trials he went through and the Holy Spirit helped through all of the various trials in the life of the various trials in the life and he made it through. Amen. What an great great encouragement for us that you can pray in the manner of verse 73 or verse 76. Lord, your hands made me. Lord, you're the one that can ultimately comfort me with your words and you're the one that can

ultimately give me understanding of your word by your Holy Spirit. And you commit that and to meditate on God's word while you're in the trial, while you're into the suffering, while you're going through the afflictions, before you spawn to your circumstances, your life will be full of peace and comfort, no matter no matter how challenging the situation may be. Just like Paul. Just like Paul. Imagine where our life would be. That would no longer be shaken by the opposition from the outside or the opposition that we put on ourselves internally by our own sinful disposition. That we will not be shattered. That God will work through through this situation. And he will make me conformed to the image of his son. And he will make me a witness for Christ. And it will be him that's doing it all along. All along. Imagine standing then before God, accountable to God again with this undivided heart, with this blameless heart. Lord, I I prayed. Lord, I trusted you. Nothing to blame in this area of your trust. When you're anchored then before God in this way of his unfailing love for you and then also surrounded by fellow believers and then to be able to reflect then the beauty of the Lord Jesus Christ to a watching world that my friends is what the Christian life is all about let's pray father I thank you so much for your goodness and your kindness and your tender your mercies upon our lives. I'm so thankful that you've worked in my life in such an amazing way where I can relate to the psalmist and I know many of my brothers and sisters in Christ can relate with the psalmist tonight. Father, as long as we have breath in our lungs, Lord, you are continuing to u mold us and fashion us for your glory. And so, Father, I pray that you would continue to help us to trust in you, depend upon your Holy Spirit, and be strengthened by Christ to fulfill the very purposes that you have for our lives, for our spiritual growth, for our witness to a watching and dying world, so that the gospel will have its true powerful effect. May we ne never diminish the power of the cross as the apostle puts it but that we proclaim and live out boldly unashamedly that we are believers in Christ and that we'll never deny him by your strength and by your Power.