

## **Title:** Standing in Awe of God's Word

**Description:** In this Sunday evening message from Psalm 119:161-168, Pastor Anthony Kim of Calvary Road Baptist Church opens the Schin stanza, where princes persecute the psalmist without a cause, yet his heart standeth in awe of God's word. It shows how holy awe of Scripture brings spiritual stability under pressure: it shapes firm convictions as the fear of God swallows up the fear of man, nurtures a character marked by rejoicing over God's word as great spoil, praise seven times a day, and the great peace of those who love His law, and produces daily conduct of hope, wholehearted obedience, and accountability before the all-seeing God. Drawing on the Puritans, it points believers to Christ, who was hated without a cause, and invites the lost to find in Him the stability this world cannot give.

## **Transcript:**

If you've been a Christian for let's say even just a week or some years or decades, you know that every single day of our lives, the believer in Christ is confronted with opposition of all sorts. Whether that's culturally around us, the various compromises I've seen and just in my life as a Christian, certainly some of you have lived as Christians for many decades, I've seen much cultural compromise. And then the next level is visible hostility towards you. And also the kind where this is close to what the Lord Jesus Christ suffered and that is personal unjust suffering.

And so when earthly pressures then mount, how does a Christian stand fast without crumbling, without retaliating in anger or possibly, yeah, I'm just going to hide from this or how about giving in to panic.

You remember the illustration I gave of the Mariana snailfish? It was a fish rather that is deep in the Mariana trench that can live under massive amount of water pressure by the pressure inside being greater than the outside. If you remember the passage I shared with you was from 1 John 4:4. "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."

So, we're going to be looking now at the 21st stanza of Psalm 119. You can go ahead and turn with me to Psalm 119 and we're going to be in verse 161. Psalm 119 verse 161 through 168. We're coming to the Schin stanza and the psalmist is going to provide us insight throughout this stanza regarding spiritual stability. How does one experience greater and greater spiritual stability despite of the external pressure getting worse, more stronger upon

you?

That word, the Hebrew word for Schin, carries this picture of fire or tribulation. Appropriately this stanza places us directly as it were in the furnace of the most severe trials that one can experience. That's what you should envision as we go through this particular stanza.

And the psalmist opens up with this troubling reality. Just take note of it. Now he starts off with "Princes have persecuted me," and then notice this, "without a cause." Without a cause. We will go into that in depth in the message. But simply this is earthly rulers. Those in high positions such as government authorities that have high influence at the highest level that then turns towards the hatred of in this specific scenario the psalmist but then across the ages to all of us as Christians. The hatred against the faithful follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As you examine then these eight verses, you'll discover something truly extraordinary that despite the severe and massive mounting pressure upon the psalmist, the external earthly persecution is entirely as it were eclipsed by the deep internal reality of divine peace. Pure joy and reverence of God's word. You're going to see this throughout the stanza. You're going to see no desperate prayer request here in the stanza. We saw that last week. Here he has come to the resolution. I've prayed and I am going to wait.

And so his trials had not vanished as we're going to see in this text. But the psalmist shifts his focus further and further away from the external circumstances to then fixing his gaze more entirely upon God's word. The almighty God meaning he is so far away at this stage from his circumstances. He is no longer personally affected at the soul level. He is at complete peace despite of being worse than all of his past persecutions.

This is where we need to be, brothers and sisters in Christ. This is where we need to be. Where we're no longer personally affected at the soul level of the surmounting external pressures that surround us day in and day out as long as you're living as a true follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. Because this is where we want to be. This is where I want all of us to be. That no matter if external pressures diminish, weakens or increases that you are made complete. Meaning you don't need those things to change outside. In your inner man, you are made as expression by Paul, you are made complete in Christ. That's where we want to be.

What does it mean then to be complete in Christ? Not our external man, the flesh that's perishing every day, but no, the inner man that is becoming more, as it were, brighter, more younger as it were as each day goes on, brighter and brighter and brighter, not darker and darker, brighter and brighter. That your spiritual life is becoming all-consuming first priority. That you've not only understood objectively your forgiveness of sin but experientially forgiveness of sin. You sense greater peace. You sense a greater strength of guilt being less and less and less and that your relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ, you understand what it means that nothing can separate you from his love experientially.

Or how about this? That you bear more the mature fruit of the spirit. Mature fruit of the spirit. We know in Galatians, right? Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith. Give me, give me the second to last one. Temperance. Yes. Wonderful. Against such there is no law. That you experience whole, more love, more joy, more peace, more of this within your soul.

And you're put in situations where God puts you in by his ordinance that seems that he doesn't, how do I say, he's not putting you in a situation that feels more comfortable physically but he puts you in more unbearable situations. Why? Why? Why does he put you more into the furnace? Why? That someone will look at you from the outside going what is that hope you have in you what is that hope that's in you ah there is when you have the opportunity to do what 1 Peter 3:15 says the hope of the Lord Jesus Christ he is the one that helps me the one that strengthens me he's the one that makes me complete that nothing externally can ever make me complete Amen.

So then when faced with this unprovoked pressure from the world as we're going to see the psalmist experience this what we see is that the stability is just there all along. The psalmist's life that he hasn't been found fighting back at his enemies or giving in by the pressure but rather he is more and more captivated more and more awe-filled reverence for God's word that then transforms more like convictions to deeper convictions. God's word is real when I'm experiencing something like the psalmist. I know because I'm experiencing it and I want to be where he's at.

You see, that's the meaning of all this idea that we see from Isaiah, the one that trembles at his word. That's when God will not despise us. That God is giving me. Think about it. When you're reading God's word, do you see it like he is directly speaking to you that direct communication to your communing

with God through his word that feeling of awe like this holy God this perfect God this God that does not change based on circumstances like we do this God that is immutable all knowing, this all powerful God, this sovereign God wants me to listen in, recognizing then the power and authority behind these words that it goes beyond just the surface reading as it were, but to the soul. It fills you and captivates you and brings you to this place where you're when you are in his presence in reading his word goes beyond the physical. It goes to the spiritual depths of our soul which he takes care of all of our needs again in the inner man.

And we don't treat then as it were as Moses where God had to say you're treading in his presence. Don't treat this lightly as it were. These are God's holy word as if he was saying you're treading in God's holy ground. You see the impact of one's life when we are in awe, standing in God's word. This is what biblical fear looks like. This is what that word awe means. That it draws a person closer to Christ rather than driving them away in despair. Do you sense that he's inviting you? He's inviting you again and again as you read his word must draw you much closer.

And that's why I love the Puritans because they understood this when they're reading God's word. They are in such reverence for God's word. They don't rush. They want to mine the depths of the scriptures and they can take one verse and write a whole book on it. We're going to go and look at William Gurnall who wrote the wonderful armor of God, 100 pages just on Ephesians 6. I'm going to quote from him again. I quote from these men because they understood the awe of God's word. How much we need that in today's age that wants to just increase in knowledge as Daniel said to and fro. But it just hits the surface level. There's no depth. There's no depth. We want depth, right, in our understanding of God's word. We want to mine the depths of God's word. And that's what we're going to do, Lord willing, this afternoon.

So let us then examine then God's word in this way as out of respect reverence for God's word. Please stand with me as we look at verse 161 through 168.

"Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word. I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil. I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love. Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments. Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them. Lord, I have hoped for thy salvation, and done thy commandments. My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them

exceedingly. I have kept thy precepts and thy testimonies: for all my ways are before thee." This is God's word. You may be seated.

We're going to take a look at verses 161 to 163, this beginning half of our reading of the stanza and what we should then experience is this reverence for God's word which then shapes a godly conviction within our souls. That's what we're going to see in this first part of the stanza. So the psalmist then begins with "Princes have persecuted me without a cause." And then he goes on and says, "But my heart standeth in awe of thy word."

I want you to notice the distinct contrast in this first verse. He notes princes at the very beginning. Again, these are positions of earthly rank. He is talking about earthly rank at the judicial level which is highest power and then the institutional authority. So you got power and authority at the human level. The highest is then a prince and he targets then the psalmist in this verse, verse one, or rather verse 161 as you will previously note in Psalm 119 verse 23 the psalmist noted "Princes also did sit and speak against me." What we see now in this stanza or this verse of 161, they have now moved from sitting and speaking against him to now plotting active persecution. So they were once publicly or rather privately sitting down, they are now publicly going to put persecution on this psalmist.

So furthermore, this persecution was without a cause. Meaning he had no committed no crime, no thing that will bring him guilt of any treason of some sort. He wasn't saying anything bad of the earthly authorities. Yet his only offense was uncompromised allegiance to the Lord. Think of Daniel in the furnace before King Nebuchadnezzar. I'm not going to bow down. My God will sustain me. His allegiance was like that.

The psalmist, you see, this unjust suffering points us directly to the Lord Jesus Christ right off the bat in John 15:25. Jesus declared these words. "But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause." Jesus suffered absolute unjust persecution. It wasn't for his sins after all. It was for our sins and from all sorts of religious leaders as we're going through the book of Mark in the morning. And then we also see all the civil princes of his day attacking him. And as followers of Christ, we ought not to be surprised then when the world treats us with similar hostility. Not just the psalmist. Again, this is ongoing to us as Christians.

So then the question is, how did the psalmist survive this kind of intimidation? Look at then the contrast. He says, "But my heart standeth in awe of thy word."

What is conviction? How do you define conviction? Because that is another way of saying in awe: my conviction is of thy law, of thy word. It's not merely a thought, an afterthought. No, it possesses your very mind and your heart.

Let me ask you, have you ever read a passage and it just keeps coming to you again and again and again? It happens to me more often than not as a pastor. I thought I finished preparing the sermon and it's just running through my head. Just last night, the text is just going through my mind. I can't sleep. And for valid reasons, so that I can provide you something to fill your appetite.

And so conviction then is that truth possesses you. It takes possession of you. You can't shake it off. It just keeps coming back in waves and stronger waves because he wants you to experience it at the soul level where stability is to be met in your inner man.

Again, as I mentioned, I'm going to be quoting from Puritans again in this sermon. So, I will be quoting from William Gurnall. And he wrote these powerful words. He said this, "When your thoughts are scorched by the fire of man's wrath, hold them for a moment to the weight of God's word and eternal judgment. One threatening out of the scriptures setting the point of God's holy wrath to the conscience scares the believer far more than the worst that earth's greatest monarchs can inflict. Man's hottest wrath is mild climate compared to the judgment of the living God." End quote.

That should sober you up to any sort of fear of man compared to the wrath of God and his perfect judgment. And so when your heart stands in this then beginning of the stanza in holy awe of God's word the fear of man is swallowed up by the fear of God. That's how we are to see this very section of this verse. Then we go on.

If you have then experienced that spiritual stability of, sorry, fear of God, then the next order as it were of holy awe of God's word is found in verse 162. The psalmist continues, "I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil." Here, it's not this awe of a slavish and a paralyzing dread. That's not what biblical fear is. Remember, it's bringing you closer to God in our relationship in the Lord Jesus Christ. Holy awe then, true holy awe. When you experience God's word comes with explosive joy, explosive joy. You are on God's side. Who can be against us? All our fears then dissipate be wrapped in God's fear

and God's joy picture.

Then he gives us a picture of a soldier on the battlefield where the warfare has been fierce but the victory is won. As he surveys then the conquered terrain. He stumbles upon immense spoil treasures of gold and silver and precious goods, more than he can ever hold on to. He leaps with exultation over the riches he has secured. He's giving us a physical illustration of how our souls should experience God's word. Do you leap for joy that God is who he is in your life? The one that secures you. The one that brings you stability. That provides your soul's need that no amount of physical needs can ever supply.

See, this is precisely what occurs when scripture shapes your convictions. When you view the Bible not as some dry very shallow words. No, God has opened up the eyes of your heart so that you can understand these great and greater truths, the infinite unsearchable wealth of God's word. Warren Wiersbe observed in this text this way, "The promises of God in the Bible are far better than money in the bank because they will never lose their value. Inflation cannot touch them and no thief or persecuting prince can ever steal them from us." End quote. What a wonderful thing that we have God's word freely given to us.

And we see scripture verse like 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 reminds us that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. There's that victory bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. You see, winning the battle as it were spiritually is the mind. And so I love that he's God is the one that brings down all the things that are holding your mind in fear of man. And he brings it all down by his almighty power. And he gives you the victory so that you don't have to be captivated by those fears, but instead captivated by what? Obedience to Christ. You're not obeying them in fear, but you're obeying God in the obedience of Christ. That's what he does for us. He does that supernaturally. He wins every single battle in our minds because he changed our value system. We no longer value the things of this world. We value Christ. And that changes your thoughts. That changes how you behave all the way down to the externals.

You see, you rejoice. You then rejoice over God's word as your ultimate prize. Right? You can think of the Apostle Paul that he what pursues a high calling in Christ Jesus. The prize, right? That's our high calling to be more and more experiencing of Christ in our earthly lives.

I said one thing before in a sermon and I said this. I said, "What is the most important thing you possess in your home?" People were giving their answer. I said, "It's your Bible." The thing that you possess in earth and things, it's your Bible. It's God's word. Do you think of it that way? Or is something else came to your mind in your home that you think you possess is greater value than your word than God's word?

So then we transition to verse 163. We're going to continue to draw from the psalmist the spiritual stability and the experiences that we have with having spiritual stability. He goes on, he declares a statement here in verse 163. "I hate and abhor lying; but thy law do I love." Here Thomas Manton the Puritan highlights the grammatical structure here and helps us to understand what the psalmist is conveying. He goes on and says the psalmist does not merely say "I hate lying" nor simply "I abhor it." He joins them together with "I hate and abhor" to express the most intense vehement hatred of falsehood. He goes on and says this. I love this phrase. He says love and hatred are the primary affections of the human soul. If they are fixed or right, every other emotion follows in due order. Everything flows out of love and hatred to all other emotions in the soul.

So what is he saying here? You see that he says he "I hate" on one side and "abhor lying," but then he says, "thy law do I love." The two strongest emotions. This is how one has stability. You love God's word but you hate everything that is false. That brings spiritual stability in your life.

So the psalmist was the victim of as we see malicious and slanderous lies without a cause right from his persecutors. Yet his primary indignation was not merely over the personal slander. He didn't take that personally. But here's where his hatred was. Everything that was false whether that's false doctrine false things said about God as it were any false religion any deceptive human wisdom that what not you personally taking it but that dishonors God that's where brings stability how do you think when people slander you and hate you and cause all falseness it's all going to be directed to him because he is all truth we're not.

And so when we anchor ourselves to him and his truth, what can shake you off? What can pull you down? Nothing. As long as you're anchoring yourself in God's word. And so the psalmist refused to then compromise biblical truth to appease the deceitful culture of his time. No different than today, is it? We will always be living in a culture of lies. But thank God we don't live according to this world but according to God's word and his truth.

So then brothers and sisters, reverence for scripture will give us strong convictions that produces holy boldness in a culture that denies truth, exalts all sorts of perversions and destroys the family. We must love what God loves and hate what God hates.

Now we transition to verses 164 to 165 where we're going to now see him reverence God's word by nurturing his character. How the word of God nurtures his character rather. So when God's word shapes your convictions primarily what happens then is God's word works out and transforms your character. Convictions first then your character and God's word produces a character by what? Marked by a sincere worship true worship of God and then ability to then walk steadfast with stability.

So let's look at that together. Starting at verse 164, here's the psalmist in continuous worship. "Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments." Notice when and why he prays. He praised God seven times a day. Now we must look at the original language which as you know the number seven denotes completeness. It denotes completeness. And so the psalmist entire day was saturated with praise. Don't get too fixated on I got to do this seven times a day. It's are you complete in your worship to God and praise? Are you saturating your day with praise?

So whenever a scripture grips your soul, I'm sure you've experienced this, you then just have a song of thanksgiving. You praise God. Thank you for helping me understand this. Thank you. Thank you so much that you've given me an understanding that should leap you off to joy, a leap from your mouth and from your heart. This kind of thanksgiving. That's what praise is.

And where does he anchor his praise? Again, saturated with God's word. Let's be clear. He says saturating in God's word in this area because of thy righteous judgments. It's not an emotion. It's because of thy righteous judgments. He did not praise God merely when he received temporal blessings or when his circumstances were pleasant. Okay? Nothing external here. He praised God simply because God's word is always right.

Righteous judgment means always right, always just, always holy. There is then unbreakable bond between scripture and true worship. Scripture and true worship. Scripture and true worship. The more you take in God's word and awe brings about this kind of praise that is anchored in the righteous judgments of God. And so the more you study the righteous judgments of God, the more your heart then erupts in continuous adoration for him.

Then we go on to verse 165. Continuing on this unshakable spiritual security, we find this in a steadfast peace. We've arrived here now at one of the most magnificent promises in this psalm. He says, "Great peace have they which love thy law, and nothing shall offend them." Nothing shall offend them. This is the only place in Psalm 119 where the word shalom is used. It speaks of total spiritual wholeness, one in which only God can provide. And this kind of well-being in God in your inner man.

And so the peace of God is this kind of calm which is can only be provided by the eternal God who is the true eternal peace that lies far deep in the soul that no amount of external disturbances can disturb that great peace. Again, like that Mariana snailfish and like most importantly 1 John 4:4, he that is in us is greater than he that is in the world.

You see, I believe this is an area that we lack in Christianity in this time and age we live in is a lack of recognizing who is living in us. And I get it. There's a lot of misunderstanding of the Holy Spirit, but we shouldn't dismiss the Holy Spirit just because there's a lack of misunderstanding in most places. The Holy Spirit does live within every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. And he's the only one that gives you the power and the strength to live the Christian life. There's nothing in us. We are just weak mortal flesh. So when a heart is totally cultivated by a devotion to God's word, there lies great power for you to live according to God's word by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Furthermore, this text guarantees nothing shall offend them. I repeated this because here it is. How is it that Christians can arrive at a place where nothing offends them? It's almost like you got to take a double notice like wait nothing can offend me. You see if you didn't understand the Holy Spirit then you will give into your flesh. It's not of you. It is the Holy Spirit that can give you the strength where you don't get offended. There's just great peace in you at the soul level.

You see, the Hebrew actually conveys even a richer understanding than the English. It says it means nothing shall cause them to stumble. Nothing shall cause them to stumble.

You see, we live in a very slippery and hazardous world. You know, I imagine like the devil trying to slip oil under our feet so we can just slip and fall and make a fool of ourselves. But you see, that's not how we are to live. We're not living in shaky ground. We're not living a shaky ground. And the word stumble here refers not merely to a temporary slip, but to a catastrophic

ruining fall. You see, Satan wants to get you to fall and not get back up spiritually speaking that you feel so defeated by the offense of somebody that I, okay, this is too much.

When those moments come, this is the text to anchor yourself in. Nothing shall offend them. Nothing. Have you settled it that like that in your life where you can say that with all honesty and all truth? Because this is our promise that God gives to us where someone who really loves God's word and makes a possession of it that God allows it to possess the soul helps you to then walk a very steady guarded walk because he is protecting you. He is helping you one step at a time.

Robert Murray M'Cheyne observed this with this text. While the world considers God's law to be bondage, the believer who is transformed into Christ's image finds in God's law true freedom and unshakable peace. Then we go on verse 166 to verse 168.

Saving faith is a living faith that produces practical obedience. Now we're getting to the practical in our stanza. So verses 166 to 168 we're going to see illustrated by the psalmist how reverence for scripture having an awe-inspired reverence for God's word then dictates how we follow daily in our conduct. So we're going from convictions to character to now our very conduct of our lives.

Let's consider verse 166. "Lord, I have hoped for thy salvation, and done thy commandments." As you know, biblical hope is not some kind of wishful thinking into the future. It's not this uncertainty of guessing what's going to happen. Rather, biblical hope is this confidence with assurance based on unalterable promises of God. You anchor yourself on the promises of God that cannot change, cannot be altered.

And so the psalmist needed deliverance. Remember that word salvation doesn't mean salvation in the sin as it were, but from physical danger. And so he asked for deliverance here once again from severe afflictions and from these hostile princes. Yet he did not collapse into despair. We see this again here in the text. He anchors his whole heart in God's coming salvation. He waits for God's timing, not his, not the way he wants it, but on him. That's our conduct. Remember from this morning, right? There are just certain things you just have to wait on God. You're going to ruin this if you try to explain spiritual things when that person's not ready to hear it.

And so, how did he prove that his hope was genuine? He goes on and says, "And done thy commandments." See, he was honest with God. I'm not just listening to your commandments. No, I'm obeying it. It's done. It's done. So, that's what true biblical hope is. Never passive.

1 John 3:3 declares, "Every man that hath this hope in him," in Christ, "purifieth himself, even as he," Christ, "is pure." There's a purifying effect when we obey God's commands. If you truly hope in God's salvation, your life will be characterized by active obedience to his word. So there's your conduct. How are you obeying God's word? Are you consistent? Can you say I have done as the psalmist says thy commandments?

Then he goes on in verse 167 we go deep going deeper into this man's devotion and he says, "My soul," here it is, he's going at the soul, "hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly." Amen. Do you notice the repetition of love throughout this psalm? Here is this now again. But love them exceedingly. I love that.

This is a profound statement by the psalmist regarding the nature of Christian obedience. The psalmist obedience was not external, not mechanical, not superficial compliance. Oh no. When it's at the soul level of keeping then God's testimonies, his outward actions will be a direct outflow of inward passionate devotion. You see that whatever is of the heart will overflow into the actions. There will never be a disconnect.

So whenever you see like why am I so superficial? Why am I mechanical? Trace it back to how your heart and your soul is in devotion to God. Is there love behind it? See, God does not want us to be, as it were, just mechanical obeying. No, he wants a loving relationship with him. It's all about this to have stability.

And so why did he then keep them with his hope these words these testimonies because the answer is he loved them exceedingly that word exceedingly means abundantly. Do you remember that word from Jesus that you may have life more abundantly. Isn't that wonderful that we can love him in his testimonies, in his words? I always remember like when I was lost, I tried to search the scriptures to find life. I couldn't because I needed to have the inner life changed first before my eyes can see and behold the wondrous things of God's law. And so we can have more abundance, more exceeding love by more obedience to God's word.

So God's word was a supreme priority then his surpassing passion and his first order of delight. Such a wonderful, remarkable instance of how we are to live as Christians today. Right? It echoes Jesus' fundamental truth found in John 14:15. "If ye love me, keep my commandments." More abundant love, keep more of his commandments.

And then we conclude with verse 168, which would give us a comprehensive understanding of one's integrity. He says this, "I have kept thy precepts and thy testimonies: for all my ways are before thee." The psalmist was determined to obey God's word comprehensively, right? We see that all my ways. You see that in the text. That's what it means to be comprehensive. Meaning all aspects of one's life. There's not one area of my life where no, I want all of it to be before God. I am accountable in all areas of my life to God. Another way of saying that's what it means here.

And so the profound realization that he is accountable to God and God alone primarily. So he says, "for all my ways are before thee." Priority is accountability to him before anyone else before all other relationships. As long as you got this right, all the other areas of accountability work out.

And so whenever I hear someone says, "I need to account. I need accountability. I need accountability." Wait, don't be too quick with that. Are you first accountable to God? If you got that right, it'll work out. It'll work out. Let's not do this in a slavish way. We don't want people to submit to us, do we? We want people to submit to God and his authority. And then we just be there to go, "Okay, yeah, I see it. I see you're obedient. I see you're accountable. Let's pray. Let's pray. Let's have God involved more and more involved in your life."

And so the psalmist lived with the constant awareness that he walked as it were on stage before the all-seeing, all-knowing God. We know this right objectively but again do we live this subjectively? I like what one pastor said to live out his sovereignty. Not just to acknowledge his sovereignty but to live out his sovereignty. Yeah. He is all-seeing. Do you recognize that God heard every word he uttered? That's how he is all-seeing. Saw every deed. He saw every word performed it. He knew every thought that was entertained and monitored every emotion in his heart. Another way of saying, you see, think about it. He's the only one that you can count on all the time. So when you're trying to I want to be accountable. I'm sorry. I'm not God. I can't be there for you at all times, but I know who can, and that's God. That's God.

So there's no place where we can flee from God's presence. Right? Psalm 139, we went over that in verses 7 to 10 I mentioned where it says whether we ascend to heaven or make our beds in the depths, God is there in both.

Now for the hypocrite, let me just draw some nuance here. Yes, it's good for the Christian, but I got to recognize for the hypocrite, the omniscience is terrifying. Why? Why? Because he sees you disobeying God. He sees you rejecting the Savior. And so you're terrified. Whereas the faithful believer once experienced his sovereignty, right? And so the faithful believer standing under earthly persecution finds his ultimate comfort in God's sovereignty. Amen. That's where I want everyone to be.

God sees your trials. He knows every tears, every tears. And he observes every faithful endurance. If man cannot see it, God sees it. You can't manipulate God to only wanting. This is for the lost. You can't manipulate God to only want to see you when you need help, but that you would want as a faithful follower of Christ that he sees before all things all the time.

So, let me conclude and end here. Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are to step back and view this magnificent passage. Let us ask ourselves, what commands our hearts today? What compels you to live the way you are living. Don't let anything fill the void that only God can fill. We know that. But how many times we need to be reminded of that in our lives? You should feel completely complete in Christ. Nothing externally should weigh your soul. He has you by the palm of his hand, by his almighty hand. To remind yourself this because it's not if, but when.

When trials come, when pressures mount, when distractions strengthen to pull us away from prayer and study of God's word, where do we turn? And where do we turn consistently? Don't allow your circumstances define you or direct you or dictate your lives. When your heart is standing in awe of God's word, that is enough. That is enough. Everything else comes from that.

So, brothers and sisters in Christ, continue to examine your convictions and where they lie. Examine your character and where it is and examine your day-to-day conduct because you can always trace it back to how you stand in awe of God's word. Let us always with that saying ultimately continue to gaze our eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. He will always keep us even when we feel faithless. He's the author of faith. Continue just look upon him and he will help you every step of the way.

And if you have not trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ, he invites you. He invites you to stop living in instability and for yourself. Come to know him. You will have the kind of spiritual stability that the psalmist speaks about and it will become personal to you just as it is with all of us that are Christians here.

Let us pray. Father, thank you for just everything that you have provided to us today. Just what a wonderful time that we got to have together. But I just pray Lord that you would yes continue to help my brothers and sisters in Christ to live in such spiritual stability as you have read from this portion of the Psalms. Father, bless this message to their hearts. May they go out with greater and greater assurance that you are truly with them and that nothing can separate them from the love of Christ objectively and subjectively.

Bless this to their hearts, Father. And please awaken the lost to see their need for the Lord Jesus Christ to turn away from their sins and repent and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ with their whole heart. Father, please help them to trust in him and him alone that can truly give them the stability that they need that they cannot find in this world is only in Christ because he pays for all of our sin. Bless this message to their hearts as well. And may we begin to see Lord the work that only you can do which is the result of salvation. We thank you for again everything you provided today in Jesus' precious name. Amen.