

THE *prayers*
OF THE
psalms

Perspective Shift

*Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name give glory,
for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness.*

Why should the nations say,

“Where is their God?”

*Our God is in the heavens;
he does whatever he pleases.*

*Their idols are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.*

- Psalm 115

*⁵ They have mouths, but they do not speak;
they have eyes, but they do not see.
They have ears, but they do not hear;
they have noses, but they do not smell.
They have hands, but they do not feel;
they have feet, but they do not walk;
they make no sound in their throats.
Those who make them are like them;
so are all who trust in them.*

- Psalm 115

*⁹ O Israel, trust in the Lord!
He is their help and their shield.
O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord!
He is their help and their shield.
You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord!
He is their help and their shield.
The Lord has been mindful of us; he will bless us;
he will bless the house of Israel;
he will bless the house of Aaron;
he will bless those who fear the Lord,
both small and great.*

- Psalm 115

*¹⁴ May the Lord give you increase,
both you and your children.
May you be blessed by the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
The heavens are the Lord's heavens,
but the earth he has given to human beings.
The dead do not praise the Lord,
nor do any who go down into silence.
But we will bless the Lord
from this time on and forevermore.
Praise the Lord!*

- Psalm 115

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"Prayer is both conversation and encounter with God."

- Pastor Tim Keller

“The psalms also help us see God- God not as we wish or hope him to be but as he actually reveals himself. The descriptions of God in the psalter are rich and beyond human invention. He is more holy, more wise, more fearsome, more tender and loving than we would ever imagine him to be. The psalms fire our imagination into new realms yet guide them toward the god who actually exists. This brings a reality to our prayer lives that nothing else can.”

- Pastor Tim Keller

*And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in
the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to
God the Father through him.*

- Colossians 3:17

*“I know that you can do all things
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.
‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’
Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me that I did not know.”*

- Job 42:2-3

An image (or an idol) is something that
you can see and control

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, “Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.”

- Exodus 32:1

we can make idols for ourselves
because we like to have control

*Their idols are silver and gold,
the work of human hands.
They have mouths, but they do not speak;
they have eyes, but they do not see.
They have ears, but they do not hear;
they have noses, but they do not smell.
They have hands, but they do not feel;
they have feet, but they do not walk;
they make no sound in their throats.
Those who make them are like them;
so are all who trust in them.*

- Psalm 115:4-8

“A result of trusting in these entities that cannot do anything means you cannot do anything either - a sad result, because it is the exact opposite to one aim of making them, which is to be in control of your life and your destiny.”

- John Goldingay

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O house of Aaron, trust in the Lord!
He is their help and their shield.
You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord!
He is their help and their shield.
The Lord has been mindful of us; he will bless us;
he will bless the house of Israel;
he will bless the house of Aaron;
he will bless those who fear the Lord,
both small and great.
May the Lord give you increase,
both you and your children.
May you be blessed by the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.*

- Psalm 115:9-15

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.”

- Matthew 11:28