

Good morning Arising Church! Today is August 2nd 2026, and today is a good day to be in the house of God! Amen?

As we begin, we want to start with a recap covering these last three weeks. Pastor Matt from LCM brought us a life-changing word titled "Impartial". How many of you are still being blessed by this word?

Pastor Matt showed us that every area of partiality that we hold onto, only skews our ability to make right judgements. Like the word that came to the priests in Malachi 2:7-9, so came the word to us.

- **Malachi 2:7-9 (NIV)**

7 "For the lips of a priest ought to preserve knowledge, because he is the messenger of the Lord Almighty and people seek instruction from his mouth.

8 But you have turned from the way and by your teaching have caused many to stumble; you have violated the covenant with Levi," says the Lord Almighty.

9 "So I have caused you to be despised and humiliated before all the people, because you have not followed my ways but have shown partiality in matters of the law."

Pastor Matt helped us recognize areas where our priestly role has faltered, and by Gods grace He is helping us today.

From there, 2 weeks ago, we heard Pastor Chad, Pastor Asa, and Pastor Nick bring us "Betrayal, Divine Clothing and Faith for the Harvest".

They demonstrated to us the connection between betrayal and the garments that we wear.

They showed us how there is a changing of garments that must take place. Through example's like Adam and Eve trying to cover their betrayal with fig leaves, or men like King Saul who set out to make an ungodly alliance with their face covered in a disguise. We learned that this kind of treachery is spreading all over the world.

We were taught how our earthly attempts to cover our sin never works out in the end. And how we must first receive divine clothing from our God, and from there can help clothe our brothers just the same.

And that brings us to last week.

With the message entitled 'Make Your Requests Known', we heard from Pastor Ben and Pastor Slaughter along with our brothers Ian Morrison and Ike Naselli. Where we benefitted from looking at the life of Hezekiah who even though was surrounded with the taunts of the enemy, chose to bring his requests to God and trusted for Him to bring the clarity on the next right step.

And that leads us to today.



Last week we learned valuable lessons from a king and this week we are going to do more of the same. We want to focus on another righteous king named Jehoshaphat.

From 2 Chronicles 17:1-19, Let's take a look at some of Jehoshaphat's accomplishments:

READ SLIDE

Jehoshaphat's ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 👑 · **The Lord** established the kingdom under him (v.5)
- 👑 · **Fortified** the cities of Judah (v.2)
- 👑 · **Sought the Lord**, not the Baals (v.3)
- 👑 · **Removed** the high places and Asherah poles (v.6)
- 👑 · **Received gifts** from Judah and tribute from the Philistines and Arabs (vv.5, 11)
- 👑 · Sent priests and officials to teach Judah **the Law** (vv.7–9)
- 👑 · **Fear of the Lord** fell on surrounding nations; no one attacked Judah (v.10)
- 👑 · **Built** forts and storehouses in Judah (vv.12–13)
- 👑 · **Amassed** an army greater than David's (vv.14–19)

2 Chronicles 18:1–19:11 (NIV)

Micaiah Prophecies Against Ahab

18 Now Jehoshaphat had great wealth and honor, and he allied himself with Ahab by marriage.

- First of all...what? Ahab was one of the most wicked kings who ever led the northern tribes of Israel, and that's saying something. His wife was literally Jezebel.
- It was a typical practice for kings to marry the daughters of other countries to ensure peace between them
 - 1 Kings 3:1 says, Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt and married his daughter
 - Throughout his reign, 1 Kings 11:3 says he married 700 wives of noble birth
 - Even Jezebel whom Ahab married was the king of Sidon's daughter, married for diplomatic purposes
 - This was a very common practice for kings who wanted peace with other countries

- Maybe you're thinking maybe this daughter might have been nice...nope she was Athaliah, the witch queen who tried to kill the entire line of David

² Some years later he went down to see Ahab in Samaria.

- Once again...why?

Ahab slaughtered many sheep and cattle for him

- Why did they do this? To honor him, that must have felt good

and the people with him and urged him to attack Ramoth Gilead. ³ Ahab king of Israel asked Jehoshaphat king of Judah, “Will you go with me against Ramoth Gilead?”

- What an enormous request...maybe that's why they were honoring him...to get something from him...how would you respond?

Jehoshaphat replied, “I am as you are, and my people as your people; we will join you in the war.” ⁴ But Jehoshaphat also said to the king of Israel, “First seek the counsel of the Lord.”

- Here's the problem...did he seek the Lord before agreeing, or agree and then see what the Lord would say about it?

⁵ So the king of Israel brought together the prophets—four hundred men—and asked them, “Shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I not?”

“Go,” they answered, “for God will give it into the king’s hand.”

⁶ But Jehoshaphat asked, “Is there no longer a prophet of the Lord here whom we can inquire of?”

⁷ The king of Israel answered Jehoshaphat, “There is still one prophet through whom we can inquire of the Lord, but I hate him because he never prophesies anything good about me, but always bad. He is Micaiah son of Imlah.”

“The king should not say such a thing,” Jehoshaphat replied.

⁸ So the king of Israel called one of his officials and said, “Bring Micaiah son of Imlah at once.”

⁹ Dressed in their royal robes, the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah were sitting on their thrones at the threshing floor by the entrance of the gate of Samaria, with all the prophets prophesying before them. ¹⁰ Now Zedekiah son of Kenaanah had made iron horns, and he declared, “This is what the Lord says: ‘With these you will gore the Arameans until they are destroyed.’ ”

¹¹ All the other prophets were prophesying the same thing. “Attack Ramoth Gilead and be victorious,” they said, “for the Lord will give it into the king’s hand.”

- Imagine the feeling in the room...the overwhelming majority of the voices around Jehoshaphat were all telling him to do something but there was a feeling in him that he hadn't actually heard from the Lord yet.
- You can tell the difference between what everyone wants to do, maybe even a part of you, and when the Lord has given clarity about what to do

12 The messenger who had gone to summon Micaiah said to him, "Look, the other prophets without exception are predicting success for the king. Let your word agree with theirs, and speak favorably."

13 But Micaiah said, "As surely as the Lord lives, I can tell him only what my God says."

- This is really what everyone is needing, but the wicked man doesn't want to hear. Why? Because he already has a plan and consulting the Lord, deep down, he knows, will result in a change of direction, and he'd rather do what he already has in mind to do

14 When he arrived, the king asked him, "Micaiah, shall we go to war against Ramoth Gilead, or shall I not?"
"Attack and be victorious," he answered, "for they will be given into your hand."

15 The king said to him, "How many times must I make you swear to tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the Lord?"

16 Then Micaiah answered, "I saw all Israel scattered on the hills like sheep without a shepherd, and the Lord said, 'These people have no master. Let each one go home in peace.' "

- This was the actual word from God at this point, the people are scattered because no one is acting like a king, there is no master. Go home.

17 The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "Didn't I tell you that he never prophesies anything good about me, but only bad?"

- But to the man who doesn't want to let go of his plan, the word of the Lord is bad and the one who brings it is seen as the enemy

¹⁸ Micaiah continued, “Therefore hear the word of the Lord: I saw the Lord sitting on his throne with all the multitudes of heaven standing on his right and on his left. ¹⁹ And the Lord said, ‘Who will entice Ahab king of Israel

into attacking Ramoth Gilead and going to his death there?’

“One suggested this, and another that. ²⁰ Finally, a spirit came forward, stood before the Lord and said, ‘I will entice him.’

“‘By what means?’ the Lord asked.

²¹ “ ‘I will go and be a deceiving spirit in the mouths of all his prophets,’ he said.

“ ‘You will succeed in enticing him,’ said the Lord. ‘Go and do it.’

²² “So now the Lord has put a deceiving spirit in the mouths of these prophets of yours. The Lord has decreed disaster for you.”

- After hearing these words, what would you do?
- Do you move forward with the plan?
- It's war...
- But maybe the answer is how far are you willing to go down the wrong road or the right road the wrong way
- This righteous king was not yet convinced

Ahab Killed at Ramoth Gilead

²⁸ So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat king of Judah went up to Ramoth Gilead. ²⁹ The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, “I will enter the battle in disguise, but you wear your royal robes.” So the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle.

- What a piece of crap. This is so often how it goes when you are willing to ally yourself with worldly or wicked people. You keep being willing to put yourself in terrible positions in the hopes that the ends would justify the means. But Jehoshaphat shouldn't be anywhere near this scenario

³⁰ Now the king of Aram had ordered his chariot commanders, “Do not fight with anyone, small or great, except the king of Israel.” ³¹ When the chariot commanders saw Jehoshaphat, they thought, “This is the king of Israel.” So they turned to attack him, but Jehoshaphat cried out, and the Lord helped him. God drew them away from him, ³² for when the chariot commanders saw that he was not the king of Israel, they stopped pursuing him.

- What was the way of salvation from the terrible circumstances? Crying out to the Lord. Jehoshaphat knew how to do this, the Lord had helped him many times. But it took him almost losing his life to be brought back to sanity. Get the hell out of there.

³³ But someone drew his bow at random and hit the king of Israel between the breastplate and the scale armor. The king told the chariot driver, “Wheel around and get me out of the fighting. I’ve been wounded.” ³⁴ All day long the battle raged, and the king of Israel propped himself up in his chariot facing the Arameans until evening. Then at sunset he died.

- This could have been Jehoshaphat's end

19 When Jehoshaphat king of Judah returned safely to his palace in Jerusalem, ² Jehu the seer, the son of Hanani, went out to meet him and said to the king, “Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the Lord? **Because of this, the wrath of the Lord is on you.** ³ There is, however, **some good in you**, for you have **rid the land of the Asherah poles** and have **set your heart on seeking God.**”

- "some good in you"

- Might sound like a dig that there is *only some good* in him...what about MOSTLY good and some bad.
- Or—after that massive failure it was reassuring there was still some good left
- He has set his heart on seeking God and what he does next proves that as true
- The actions that precede this moment is what many people in this room have found themselves in
 - Battles that were not directed by God
 - Partnerships that shouldn't exist
 - Plans that are draining you, taking you away from where you should be, causing confusion and putting you and the people you're responsible for in unnecessary trouble
 - What a benefit an impartial brother is to King Jehoshaphat in this moment
- What follows is what the Lord has been taking us through and now comes back full circle to what Pastor Matt preached 3 weeks ago

Jehoshaphat Appoints Judges

⁴ Jehoshaphat lived in Jerusalem, and he went out again among the people from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim and turned them back to the Lord, the God of their ancestors. ⁵ He appointed judges in the land, in each of the fortified cities of Judah. ⁶ He told them, “Consider carefully what you do, because you are not judging for mere mortals but for the Lord, who is with you whenever you give a verdict. ⁷ Now let the fear of the Lord be on you. Judge carefully, for with the Lord our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery.”

- Jehoshaphat goes back home (this is the battle he should be fighting)
- Jehoshaphat recognizes there is a need for better judgment, better decision making starts with turning back to the God of their ancestors

- He enforces judgment without partiality...why might this be on his mind right now...he was making judgments with partiality in his own heart with Ahab
- He is remembering that he represents God in judgment and he teaches others to do the same

⁸ In Jerusalem also, Jehoshaphat appointed some of the Levites, priests and heads of Israelite families to administer the law of the Lord and to settle disputes. And they lived in Jerusalem. ⁹ He gave them these orders: “You must serve faithfully and wholeheartedly in the fear of the Lord. ¹⁰ In every case that comes before you from your people who live in the cities—whether bloodshed or other concerns of the law, commands, decrees or regulations—you are to warn them not to sin against the Lord; otherwise his wrath will come on you and your people.

- He is communicating the same warnings to them as the rebuke he just received from the prophet...
- He emphasizes that every matter that comes to you must be determined based off the instruction of the Lord

Do this, and you will not sin.

- The king has just experienced how dangerous making plans, deciding matters, and making judgments can be when you don't consult the Lord...
- In light of that, listen to a familiar verse and the context that it is in

- **James 4:13–17 (NIV)**

¹³ Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” ¹⁴ Why, you do not even know what will happen

tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. ¹⁵ Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." ¹⁶ **As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes.** All such boasting is evil. ¹⁷ If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

- Many have quoted this last verse without understanding the context that it is in
- Simply making plans for your future without consulting the Lord is boasting in arrogant schemes
- It is called evil
- What then is the good that you know you ought to do?
- Contextually it is to say, "if it is the Lord's will"
- This is not meant to be a tagline at the end of whatever plans you make as you move forward with whatever you have in mind, but rather a divine call to seek the Lord for direction on the next step.

The Lord is helping us and we want to help you all by going back to the weapons of old and consulting the way the Lord has already shown us how we should make decisions.

Let's revisit Psalm 25 and Psalm 4 in light of the stories of Jehoshaphat this week and King Hezekiah last week.

The point of Psalm 25: Jehoshaphat Situation

Soul Submission

Removing how you believe the Will of God should be carried out by submitting your soul to Him and His ways to be taught HOW you should accomplish his will.

Psalm 25:1–10

When You Have Time to Pray Through A Decision

Vs. 1-3: Mind, will and emotions **must be submitted** to the LORD

Vs. 4-5: Ask for **divine direction** instead of carnal compulsion

Vs. 6-7: **Ask for mercy** knowing that you can't receive mercy without giving it → James 2:13

Vs. 8-9: Be humble enough to **do what the LORD directs**

V.10: The Ketubah (Your Bible) does **not** contain **suggestions**; they are commands & testimonies of God

- **Psalm 25:1–10 (ESV)**

1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

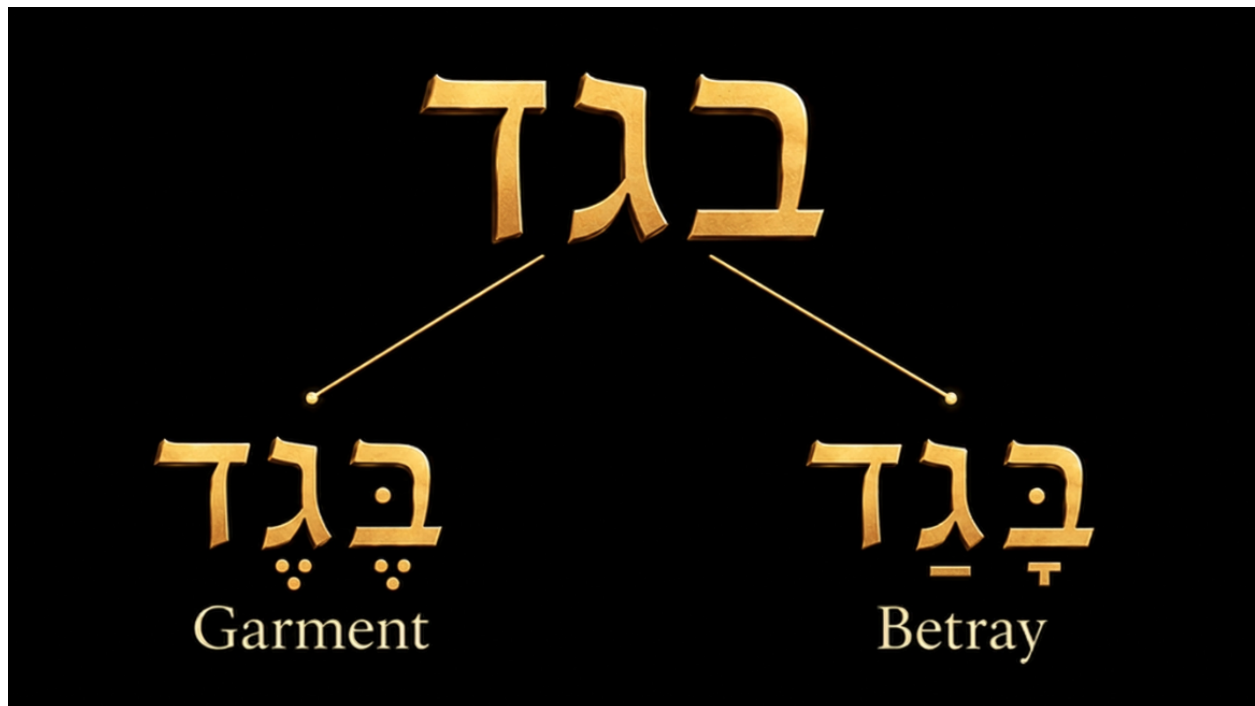
2 O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be put to shame;
let not my enemies exult over me.

3 Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

This is where you begin Soul submission...getting your mind, will, emotions in line with HIS heart. You do not have a solution yet - but you do not want to just go about it in your own way.

- In YOU I trust (not myself)
- Let me not be put to shame by me enemies (I want to succeed for the Kingdom)
- Waiting is better than doing something with treachery (dangerous, unfaithful)

You should recognize the word *treacherous* (*bagad*) from our sermon two weeks ago.



Soul submission is recognizing the treacherous parts of us and taking it off and replacing it with divine clothing.

- **Psalm 25:4-5 (ESV)**

4 Make me to know your ways, O Lord;
teach me your paths.

5 Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all the day long.

This is what we call Divine Direction vs Carnal Compulsion.

- Carnal Compulsion = confidence based on your own determination of how God's will should be carried out

- Divine Direction = Submitting your soul to the Lord and asking Him to Show (Yadah) me, Teach (Lamad - train by experience) me, Guide me

This is Jehoshaphat's situation.

- Desire to unite the kingdom - seems like a good thing
- But there is Actually carnal compulsion present - will of God in HIS way and not God's way
- Carnal Compulsion - Ill marry his daughter and fight alongside him.
- Possible ulterior motive = selfish ambition to be the one to unite the kingdoms
- Before doing any of this he needed soul submission

- **Psalm 25:6-7 (ESV)**

6 Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

7 Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

These verses should ground you in the reality of your own state before God. Recognize you have received mercy from him and thus you should extend it to others as you go about this process

- **James 2:12–13 (NIV)**

¹² Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom, ¹³ because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. Mercy triumphs over judgment.

***ELABORATE**

- **Psalm 25:8-9 (ESV)**

8 Good and upright is the Lord;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

9 He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

His character is good and upright, so much so he instructs sinners in the way. Again, remember Jehoshaphat? While he was in the thick of a battle he should not be in he humbles himself and the Lord delivers him and sends him a prophet to instruct him.

When you read this, call to mind all the times you thought you were right and were clearly wrong. This should cause such a humility to appreciate instruction from the Lord. This humbling of your very soul allows you to be guided into what is right and for him to teach you His way

- **Psalm 25:10 (ESV)**

10 All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and
faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Humility lets us see the true heart of God and accept and trust whatever His direction is. When He speaks it is not optional, you **MUST** submit your soul to Him in obedient action. He is loving and faithful to those who are faithful to His covenant, faithful to submit their soul to Him.

- **ELABORATE**

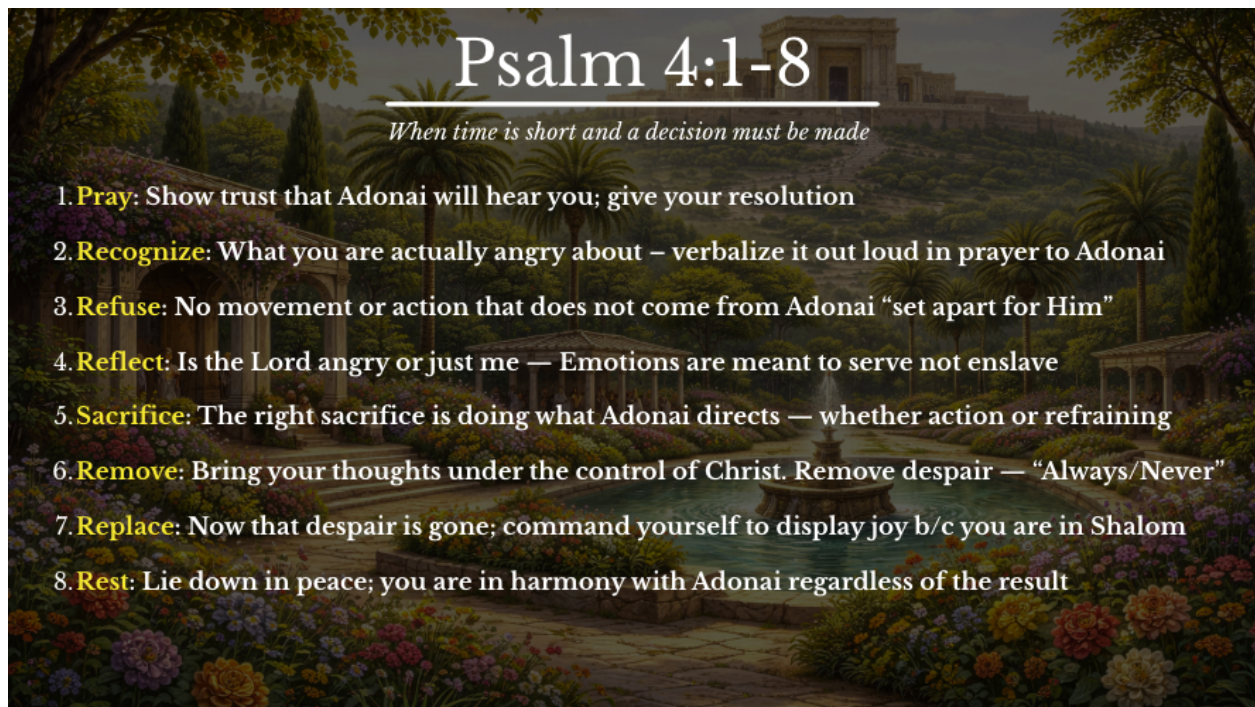
The Point of Psalm 4: Hezekiah Situation

You need a decision right now, instead of acting—stop, pray and do not move until He speaks.

Last week's sermon:

- Army is gathering against them
- Enemy trying to sow deceit and lies
- WHAT DO WE DO RIGHT NOW???

He lays everything out and cries out and the Lord answers. The Psalm 4 teaching was made with Hezekiah's situation in mind by LCM.



Psalm 4:1–8 (NIV)

1 Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

- **Pray!** Show trust that God will hear you and is going to give you a resolution
- Hezekiah did not just react, he went to the Lord

2 How long will you people turn my glory into shame? How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?

- **Recognize!** Verbalize out loud what you are actually feeling conflicted about!
- Hezekiah says this in his prayer:
Isaiah 37:18,20 (NIV)
18 “It is true, Lord, that the Assyrian kings have laid waste all these peoples and their lands...Now, Lord our God deliver us from his hand.

3 Know that the LORD has set apart his faithful servant for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.

- **Refuse!** to make any movement or action that doesn't come from the throne because you are set apart for Him
- Once he prays, we do not see Hezekiah do anything until the Lord sends Isaiah.

4 Tremble and do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.

- **Reflect!** on the Lord's Word to determine if your emotions are being derived from that or somewhere else... your emotions were meant to serve you not enslave you!

5 Offer the sacrifices of the righteous and trust in the LORD.

- **Sacrifice!** In the moment sacrifice by doing what you believe He is directing you
 - Whether action or inaction
 - {Remember the order of Shalom}

6 Many, LORD, are asking, “Who will bring us prosperity (**who can show us anything good**)?” Let the light of your face shine on us.

- **Remove!** Now that you have made a decision, you bring your thoughts under the control of Christ and remove despair!
 - Right or wrong you have made the decision in the right way
 - **[C]** Avoid letting the words "always" & "never" enter your mind

7 Fill my heart with joy when their grain and new wine abound.

- **Replace!** Now that despair is gone command yourself to be joyful and happy knowing you are in Shalom

8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.

- **Rest!** Lie down in peace! Sit!
- You are in harmony with God no matter what the outcome is.
- *sometimes the will of God puts you in difficult circumstances - this does not change your decision. *title deed language
- You can see this by the fact that Hezekiah went to bed that night! He did not stay up stressing, and once he woke up the Lord has struck down the entire army.

These are tools you should all become familiar with and use regularly. In most cases you will be in a Jehoshaphat situation and rarely a Hezekiah situation.

Because of that, many times you will find yourself praying through Psalm 25 and you will not always get an answer right away. This is where faith comes in. You have to trust in the Lord who has delivered you and helped you so many times will do it again.

Do not compromise and fall into carnal compulsion if you do not have direction immediately. This is why you repeatedly see the Word say "wait on the Lord".

- **Isaiah 40:31 (ESV)**

31 but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

Those who WAIT on the Lord will renew their strength.

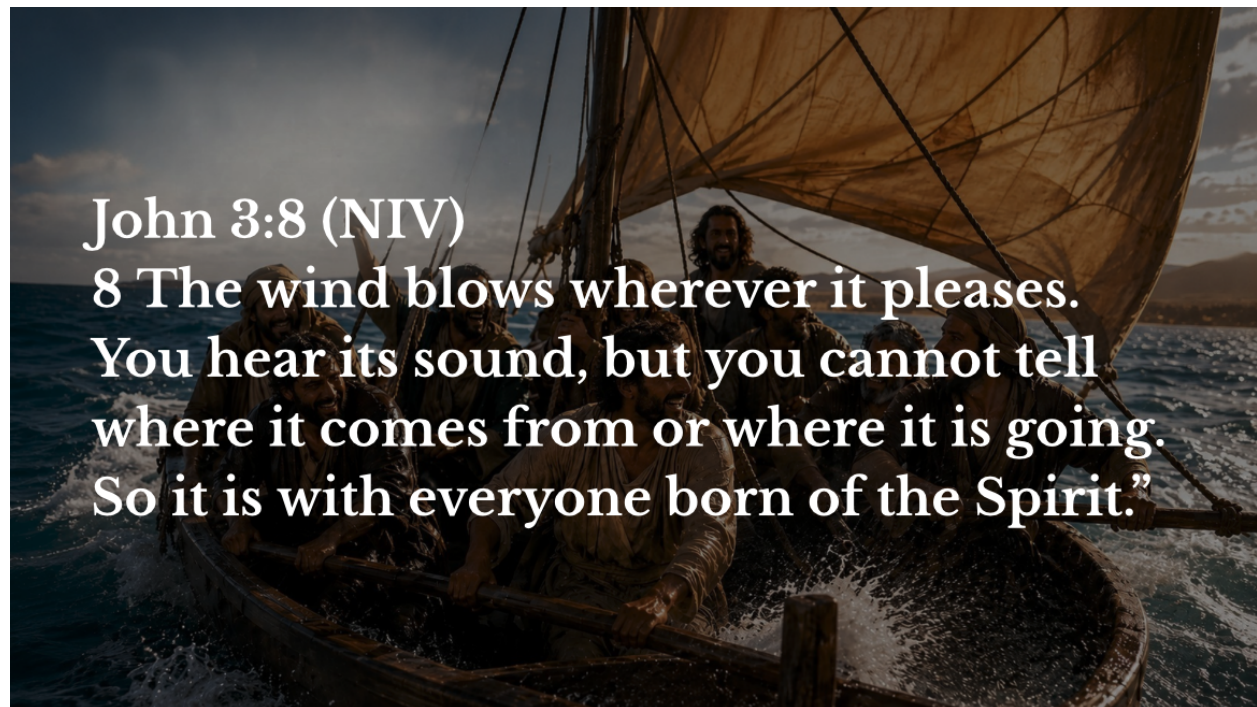
- If you are exhausted right now and find yourself like Jehoshaphat - invested in something you dedicated to God but was never directed by Him

Or

- You're in a dire circumstance like Hezekiah and you need the Lord to speak

You need to submit your soul to Him and hear from heaven.

The process of praying and hearing and waiting oftentimes looks like a picture Jesus describes in John 3:8



- **John 3:8 (NIV)**

⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

There is only one word in Greek to describe the spirit and wind - pneuma. Jesus is using the wind as an illustration for what the spirit is like.

The wind is a strange thing

- Your mind cannot comprehend how it really works
- It comes out of nowhere
- Its always going into a direction you could not predict
- You cannot see it with your eyes
- But you can feel it, and you can hear it

So it is with the Spirit. When you are making difficult decisions and submitting your soul to the Lord.

- Your natural mind will do no good in trying to understand how it really works
- The solution usually comes out of nowhere
- The spirit is always leading into a direction the Lord desires
- You cannot live by your sight when walking by faith
- But you can feel the spirit and you can hear the spirit speaking

Imagine your life is a journey and you are out at sea

INSERT ROWING VIDEO

You are trying to get to the will of God. Without the spirit its like straining at the Oars trying to get to where YOU want to go. Rowing puts YOU in control—yet the sea is still moving and rocking you back and forth.

INSERT SAILING VIDEO

The spirit is the wind. You do not know where it comes from, but its going somewhere. Divine direction is putting away the oars, and waiting for the wind. Its as soon as you feel the spirit or hear His voice - opening the sails and going wherever it takes you regardless of your own thoughts or emotions.

CLOSE