

120 – Can you be shaken?

Let me give you the end of the study tonight first: There is only one way you and I will live to God in this wicked eon...only one way: Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Him. Listen to me, brethren and sistren: We had better die and be dead with Him, 'cause we'll never live without Him. The Lord said through the prophet, Isaiah, I am the Lord and besides me there is no savior." This is not a game. God is not playing, and we'd better not be either, 'because the fulfillment of God's purpose of the eons will not wait for any one of us to figure it out and catch up to it. Let me say it again, We'd better die with Him, because we'll never live without Him.

Wherever you are today, I pray you stay with me through the end of this study tonight, because God has made the way to life in Him plain and clear. If you are anywhere you can be distracted, or if there is anything around you right now that could be distracting, get it out or get somewhere where you and God can meet, because apart from His presence, there is no protection, no safety, no life at all, and our lives, souls and calls are in imminent and terminal danger at every turn. If you think that sounds just way too dramatic, strap yourself in, because I intend to demonstrate from His own word, what I just said is also what God says.

You don't have to believe a single word I say, but you'd better believe *every* word He says.

Yesterday, Bible Gateway's "Scripture of the Day" was this:

Psalm 16:8 (CJB)

I have set the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.

When I looked up that psalm today, I also found this:

Psalm 62:2-3

He alone is my rock and salvation, my stronghold; I won't be greatly moved.

Both of these psalms are loaded with landmarks that we can navigate by, if we would but look to the word of God throughout every day for all of our paths. Landmarks, however, may turn into land mines as our world explodes around us for failing to live to and for the Lord, making Him first and foremost in our lives, to the exclusion of all else. When we do just that, make God, and, thereby, following after the Lord Jesus Christ, first and foremost in all the details of our daily lives, He will direct our paths. Indeed, He will make them straight:

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵Trust in the LORD [Adonai] with all your heart,
do rely on your own understanding.

⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him,
then He will level your paths.

Seldom during *Light Up the Scriptures* in the Old Testament, except to discover principles, patterns and precedents, or to explore the ways of God. Tonight, however, we are at what to me is a critical time in the Body of Christ. I see lives hanging in the balance, as individual steps lead to life-altering consequences, some for abundant and astonishing good, and others to potential destruction.

Perhaps it has always been this way in human history, but you and I are present at *this* time and season, and, while we have the benefit of history, its knowledge is no guarantee that we won't repeat it. What is most alarming to me is that even our position *in* Christ, living at a time when the power and anointing of God's Holy Spirit is within us, is no guarantee of safety from the stratagems of the adversary, or the systematizing of the deception that Paul warns about in Ephesians 4 and 6.

It is a precarious, perilous and fearful perspective I find myself peering into tonight, and I beg you to stand here with me, looking over a precipice at what is our glorious expectation on the one hand or our destruction on the other.

If you have not already done it, read the chapter in the book, *Go God*, titled "*Armor Up!*" If you have read it, read it again, I urge you, because in it you will find newly important insight into the two phenomena to which Paul calls our

attention in [Ephesians 4:14 and 6:11](#): They are again, “**the systematizing of the deception,**” and “***the stratagems of the adversary.***”

Now come back with me to the scriptures I began with, in Psalms and Proverbs. Go through these with me in whatever Bible version you may have, but I will be reading them from the CLV:

First, Psalm 16. We’ll look at it more closely after I simply read it through, so as not to miss the music in the words. I can only imagine what this must sound like in ancient Hebrew.

Protect me, Oh El [God], for I have taken refuge in you.

² I have said to Yahweh, “You are my Lord; *my* goodness is nothing at all before you.”

³ Concerning the saints, who are in the land, *they* are noble ones; all my delight is in them.

⁴ Yet their griefs shall increase, who hasten after other elohim [gods];
Not at all shall I offer their drink offerings of blood,
And not at all shall I bear their names on my lips.

⁵ Yahweh is the assigned share of my portion and my cup;
You are the One upholding my lot.

⁶ The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
Indeed, the allotment is seemly for me.

⁷ I shall bless Yahweh Who has counseled me;
Indeed in the nights my innermost being has admonished me.

⁸ I poise Yahweh in front of me continually;
Because He is at my right hand, I shall not slip at all.

⁹ Wherefore my heart rejoices, and my glory shall exult;
Indeed, my flesh, it shall tabernacle in serenity.

¹⁰ For you shall not forsake my soul to the unseen [Sheol],
You shall not allow your benign one to see corruption.

¹¹ You shall acquaint me with the path of life;
Satisfying rejoicings are in your presence;
Pleasantness is at your right hand.

V1: read it. God protects us WHEN we take refuge in Him. If we take refuge in anyone or anything else, we are unprotected. Ask yourself now, is there anyone or anything I am taking refuge in? Am I taking refuge in God alone? Am I really?

V2: read it. Remember Whose goodness counts, and, Oh by the way, it isn't our own as we stand before our Master, our Lord, Who is Himself good.

V4: read it. Running after other gods (elohim) increases griefs. Don't think that we'll escape *all* grief as we hasten after the Lord. That's *not* what it says; rather, we don't need to *increase* our griefs. Ask yourself, do I find grief in my life today? Where is it, and is there any allegiance or alliance that is opposed to or other than strict allegiance and alliance with God? Father, I ask you to show where any and all alliances are in each of our lives; and wherever they may be found, Father, I break powers with them, I break agreement and cancel all contracts with those spirits in the name of Jesus Christ, Whom I claim as the Lord of my life.

V5 & 6: read it. These two verse are only possible when the preceding ones are fulfilled in our lives. When God gets what He's after, we will have what is truly satisfying, pleasant and seemly to us, as the scripture says.

V7: read it. How often are you blessing the Lord? Has He counseled or admonished you personally? Is there some other or better counselor.

V8: read it. Slipping *at all* is unnecessary and preventable so long as we "***poise the Lord in front of [us] continually.***" Continually means non-stop. If we have desire to walk steadily, sure-footed in what we know as "***this present wicked eon,***" holding the Lord in front of us is the only way. In His omnipresence, He may also be at our right hand so that not only can we follow Him Who is poised in front of us, but we can rely on Him as we would rely on our own right hands. We also ought to realize that looking toward Him is with a fixed gaze, straight ahead, like the Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 3:12-14

Not that I already obtained, or am already perfected. Yet I am pursuing, if I may be grasping also that for which I was grasped also by Christ Jesus.

13 Brethren, not as yet am I reckoning myself to have grasped, yet one

thing -- forgetting, indeed, those things which are behind, yet stretching out to those in front --

14 toward the goal am I pursuing for the prize of God's calling above in Christ Jesus.

V9: read it. After all that has preceded, our hearts rejoice; not before. Not only that, but our flesh rests in serenity. If we are experiencing something other serenity in our flesh right now, I would suggest that we need to do an inventory through the first 8 verses of Psalm 16 and see where we may have taken our gaze off the Lord and centered it on something or someone else.

V10: read it. This is a prophetic verse concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.

V11: read it. Life, satisfying rejoicings, and pleasantness are ours IN His presence and at His right hand...nowhere else. Well, how does life look right now? Does it feel like the kind of life you'd expect in the presence of God? Are we experiencing "satisfying rejoicings...pleasantness?" Again, if not, we have slipped, by definition, and to the degree that we have slipped, we'd better correct our gaze, our priorities, and our course, looking objectively at anything we have set up above the Lord, and breaking powers with it in the name of Jesus Christ.

Now, let's go to Psalm 62:5

¹ **Only** in Elohim is my soul stilled; From Him comes my salvation.

² He **only** is my rock and my Salvation, my Impregnable Retreat; I shall not slip more.

³ How long shall **you foes** be hostile against a man [or woman]. All of you, that you may murder him. As though he were a sleeping sidewall or a foundering dike?

⁴ They intrigue only to trip him up from his dignity; they approve of lies; with their mouth they bless, yet within them, they are maledicting [pronouncing curses].

Only in Elohim be still, O my soul. For from Him comes my expectation.

Proverbs 3 – from CLV

It is one thing to exercise faith in Jesus and receive the forgiveness that His sacrifice makes possible; being conciliated to God, trusting Him to save us into life. It is another thing to act out — “*carry into effect*” — that salvation in the details of daily living. These are likely to seem tedious, given such a grand destiny that we share with Christ, so Paul cautions his readers against “*murmurings and reasonings.*” Today we might say, “No Whining!”

I invite you to go through an exercise with me now to poise the Lord in front of us and establish Him at our right hands:

Father, I lay at the foot of the cross the things in my life anything that keeps your presence from me, and that is in my way of fixing my gaze on you. I also lay down everything I don't like, wish had been different in the past, wish had not happened at all; everything I wish were not happening or were different now. I lay down every area of my character that needs work, and every unwelcome memory that surface. I ask You, Father to be with me to carry out my own salvation, making it effective in my life today.

Imagine being seated, straddling a cross between your knees that stands upright, about eight feet tall. About half way up a wedge-shaped piece of wood is attached, four or five inches thick at its base. A large spike is driven through its thickest part.

As you straddle the cross, in your mind's eye, place your hands on the wedge with the spike between your fingers. Close your eyes, rest your head on your arms in front of you, and imagine that you are at the foot of the cross on which Jesus Christ hung. The spike between your fingers is the one driven through His feet. Let an indelible impression form in your mind's eye, of a man — a human being just like you — who, out of obedience to God, allowed His feet to be nailed where your fingers are now.

Because of so great a love for *you* — even if you were the *only* human being alive — Jesus laid down His life to save yours, not *from* “hell,” but “*into life*” (Matthew 25:46, John 4:14). This is the love that Jesus and the Father have for you. Ponder the fact that this sacrifice is being made *for* you to be forgiven for everything you've ever done or thought, and everything you may yet do or think!

In your mind's eye, lay every burden, every wound of mind, heart, soul and spirit; every sin or offense, both suffered and committed, at the foot of Christ's cross,. Let Jesus carry them to die with Him. Know that as He dies, with your fingers around the nail in His

feet, everything about you and your life dies too. Nothing is left alive that could separate you from God; *nothing*.

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor messengers, nor sovereignties, nor the present, nor what is impending, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.” (Romans 8:38-39)

Imagine, here, at Christ’s “feet,” that you can *feel* His life end. As His last breath exhales, all that could limit you, stop you, or plague your mind with doubt or guilt, *dies* with Him. He carries your old life into the grave *with* Him. The Man, at Whose feet you rest, died for you to be justified before God, erasing all sin and offense from your life.

Jesus also died trusting God to raise Him from the dead. So open your eyes but stay in the vision, sit up straight, look up, and see that the cross is empty! Jesus is not there! He has been raised from the dead, just as God promised Him — and promises *you* because you believe!

“Whom are you seeking?” A voice from behind asks (John 20:15). Turning, see Him; recognize Him; Jesus, raised and alive. He stands before you now, glorified, having *conquered* death! The life you laid at the foot of His cross holds nothing over you any more, just as death holds nothing over Jesus! As He lives in victory, so can you when you sustain your steady focus on the risen Lord! As He was raised from the dead into glorified life, so will you be!

“...we are more than conquering through Him Who loves us.” (Romans 8:37)

Are you satisfied? Was His sacrifice enough for you to choose faith in Him over fear? Is His resurrection powerful enough for you to choose friendship with God over enmity? Can you give *your* life to Christ as He gave His for you? Can God be all in all in you today?

What will it mean? What will happen?

It is impossible to know the answers to these questions before the decision for this total faith is made. That is its nature: *trust first, results follow*. This can characterize your walk with God from now on, as you hold hands with Jesus Christ. Maybe, just maybe, the Lord of all creation can be trusted to direct your life, yes?

All celestial creation is watching you now. God knows your next step, but they do not. Those who are yet hostile to God, led by Satan — will fight, and are fighting, your decision to believe God through Christ’s death and resurrection. They aren’t just *hoping* you will walk away; *they are actively working toward that end*.

Jesus' life is the highest price the Father has to offer. Is it enough for you to say "Yes" to change to make Him first, to live in harmony with Him now? This is why Jesus died: that you, for His sake, may be conciliated to God:

"So that, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: the primitive passed by. Lo! there has come new! Yet all is of God, Who conciliates us to Himself through Christ, and is giving us the dispensation of the conciliation, how that God was in Christ, conciliating the world to Himself, not reckoning their offenses to them, and placing in us the word of the conciliation. For Christ, then, are we ambassadors, as of God entreating through us. We are beseeching for Christ's sake, "Be conciliated to God!" For the One not knowing sin, He makes to be a sin offering for our sakes that we may be becoming God's righteousness in Him."

(2 Corinthians 5:17-21)

When you are ready to say "Yes," get very quiet within yourself. Look Jesus in the eyes, and ask him to come fully into your heart; to be *the* all in you and in your life. Tell Him that you receive Him as Savior and Lord. Declare your decision to Him to change your mind from the ways you have thought and acted. Ask Him to help you replace those with new ways. Acknowledge Him as Lord over your life. Ask Him to bathe you the Holy Spirit, the power of the Father dwelling in you, acting through your own spirit with its own language:

Now begin to speak. Just open your mouth, and with sounds your mind can't comprehend, worship God. Allow a flow to well up from within you into a river of sounds, words, and sentences that come from somewhere you don't know, but you welcome. This is the Holy Spirit infusing life into *your* spirit. This is your direct line to God and to Christ. Return here often and enjoy the fellowship of your Father God and your Brother, Jesus!

When you are ready, ask God for clear understanding of His purpose, His ways and guidance for the steps to take to know Him. Ask Him to make His word come alive to your spirit for inspiration and instruction.

Finally, just say, "Thank You, Father. Thank You, Lord Jesus. Thank you for all this that I have asked in Your Holy Name. AMEN."

It is accomplished.

"So that, my beloved, according as you always obey, not as in my presence only, but now much rather in my absence, with fear and trembling, be carrying your own salvation into effect, for it is God Who is operating in you to will as well as to work for the sake of His delight. All be doing without murmurings and reasonings..." (Philippians 2:12-14)

Work out *your* salvation (in fear and trembling – as opposed to cocky):

- **Show up** to God every day (there's no "cruise control." This starts over each day

- **Pay attention** to the voice of your spirit within (it is quiet but distinct)
- **Share your truth** *“in meekness of wisdom”* (James 3:13).
- **Let go of the outcome.** Give it up to *“The One Who is operating the all in accord with the counsel of His will.”* (Ephesians 1:11)

The writings of the Apostle Paul are uniquely grand in their scope. They serve to make God relatable and His purpose understandable. Paul gives a vision of great hope in and promise of the glory to come, through faith in Jesus Christ. Hopefully, you have learned to pay close attention to what the language says, rather than interpret it through the filter of traditions. *“Correctly cutting the word of the truth,”* you discover that God is GOD, and He knows perfectly well what He’s been doing from the start! His credibility is intact.

You have been issued your equipment — *“the panoply of God.”* Now you must put it on, to *“withstand the stratagems of the Adversary,”* and be vigilant against *“the systematizing of the deception.”*

You now know that you are not required to like how things look in *“this wicked eon,”* but you also know that His purpose is grand enough to justify everything.

You have now heard the *“entreaty”* to *“be conciliated to God,”* to make Christ’s death count fully. And, finally, that, in an extraordinary gesture, to draw close to you, the Father carries His offering to you, His *“approach present”* of salvation *“in grace through faith.”*

Throughout these pages are the essential tools to **LIVE the VICTORY!** There is always more to learn. Others more gifted than I — my beloved wife, Barbara, for one, who is “hard-wired” to God — will expand and complete the understanding of God’s word for our time.

Remember, as you read Paul’s writings that his revelation came directly from the risen Christ. His letters span more than 20 centuries to impart the secrets of God’s heart and purpose. It is fitting to close this chapter with the Apostle’s grand vision, written in his letter to the ecclesia in Ephesus. Read it slowly and let the images form and embed themselves into your memory. Read it often to refresh yourself when daily cares weigh upon you.

Bless you and Bless God Most High.

“...yet God, being rich in mercy, because of His vast love with which He loves us (we also being dead to the offenses and the lusts), vivifies us together in Christ (in grace are you saved!) and rouses us together and seats us together among the celestials, in Christ Jesus, that, in the oncoming eons, He should be displaying the

transcendent riches of His grace in His kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For in grace, through faith, are you saved, and this is not out of you; it is God's approach present, not out of works, lest anyone should be boasting. For His achievement are we, being created in Christ Jesus...

"Yet now in Christ Jesus, you, who once are far off, are now become near by the blood of Christ. For He is our Peace, Who makes both one, and razes the central wall of the barrier (the enmity in His flesh), nullifying the law of precepts in decrees, that He should be creating the two, in Himself, into one new humanity, making peace; and should be reconciling both in one body to God through the cross, killing the enmity in it. And, coming, He brings the evangel of peace to you, those afar, and peace to those near, for through Him we both have had the access, in one spirit, to the Father.

"Consequently, then, no longer are you guests and sojourners, but are fellow-citizens of the saints and belong to God's family, being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, the capstone of the corner being Christ Jesus Himself, in Whom the entire building, being connected together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord: in Whom you, also, are being built together for God's dwelling place, in spirit.

"On this behalf I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you, the nations — since you surely hear of the administration of the grace of God that is given to me for you, for by revelation the secret is made known to me...in spirit the nations are to be joint enjoyers of an allotment, and a joint body, and joint partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus, through the evangel of which I became the dispenser, in accord with the gratuity of the grace of God, which is granted to me in accord with His powerful operation. To me, less than the least of all saints, was granted this grace: to bring the evangel of the untraceable riches of Christ to the nations, and to enlighten all as to what is the administration of the secret, which has been concealed from the eons in God, Who creates all, that now may be made known to the sovereignties and the authorities among the celestials, through the ecclesia, the multifarious wisdom of God, in accord with the purpose of the eons, which He makes in Christ Jesus, our Lord; in Whom we have boldness and access with confidence, through His faith...

"On this behalf am I bowing my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, after Whom every kindred in the heavens and on earth is being named, that He may be giving you, in accord with the riches of His glory, to be made staunch with power, through His spirit, in the man within, Christ to dwell in your hearts through faith, that you, having been rooted and grounded in love, should be strong to grasp, together with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and depth and height -- to know the love of Christ as well which transcends knowledge -- that you may be completed for the entire complement of God. Now to Him Who is able to do super excessively above all that we are requesting or apprehending, according to the power that is operating in us, to Him be glory in the ecclesia and in Christ Jesus for all the generations of the eon of the eons! Amen!"

(Ephesians 2:4-3:19)

"Now to Him Who is able to do superexcessively above all that we are requesting or apprehending, according to the power that is operating in us, to Him be glory in the ecclesia and in Christ Jesus for all the generations of the eon of the eons! Amen!" (Eph. 3:20-21)

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you: the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." (Numbers 6:24-26)