

How are believers to be one with Christ?

Proverbs 2:1-5

My son, if you accept **My words** and store up **My commands** within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for hidden treasure, then you will **understand the fear of the Lord** and **find the knowledge of God...**

Job 1-16	Psalms 1-6	2 Corinthians 1-6
<p>“But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face.” (Satan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sabeans attacked and carried off Job’s oxen and donkeys and killed the servants. - Fire of God from the sky burned up the sheep and the servants. - Chaldeans raided and swept away camels and killed servants. - A mighty wind struck Job’s oldest son’s house and killed all his children. <p>“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.”</p> <p>Satan afflicted Job with painful sores from head to feet.</p> <p>“Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?”</p>	<p>Blessed is the man who...delights in the <u>law of the Lord</u> and meditates on it when things are going well and when things are uncertain and fearful. He is like a tree...yields fruit...leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers. Reflective Conclusion (RC):</p> <hr/> <p>Meditation #1: God’s King</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - installed by the Lord - God’s Son - Nation’s are His inheritance - Ends of the earth are His possession - Rule nations with an iron scepter - Dash them to pieces like pottery <p>THEREFORE...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be wise - Serve the Lord w/ fear - Rejoice w/ trembling - Kiss the Son - Blessed are all who take refuge in Him. <p>RC:</p> <hr/> <p>Meditation #2: God’s Protection and Salvation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How many are my foes! - How many rise up against me! - “God will not deliver him.” <p>BUT...</p>	<p>Read chs. 1, 3, 4 and find passages where Paul’s thoughts reflect the contents of Job and Psalms. List the passages below.</p>

<p>“Why did I not perish at birth, and die as I came from the womb?”</p> <p>“What I feared has come upon me; what I dreaded has happened to me.”</p> <p>“Consider now: Who, being innocent, has ever perished?...As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it.” Eliphaz</p> <p>“But now be so kind as to look at me. Would I lie to your face? Relent, do not be unjust; reconsider, for my integrity is at stake. Is there any wickedness on my lips?”</p> <p>“When I think my bed will comfort me and my couch will ease my complaint, even then You frighten me with dreams and terrify me with visions, so that I prefer strangling and death, rather than this body of mine.”</p> <p>“If I have sinned, what have I done to You, O Watcher of men? ...For I will soon lie down in the dust; you will search for me, but I will be no more.”</p> <p>“Surely God does not reject a blameless man or strengthen the hands of evildoers.” Bildad</p> <p>“If only there were someone to arbitrate between us, to lay his hand upon us both, someone to remove God’s rod from me, so that His terror would</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God is my shield - God will exalt and honor me. - God answers me when I cry aloud to Him. - I can sleep safely because He sustains me. <p>FAITH RESPONSE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arise, O Lord! - Deliver me, O my God! - Strike all my enemies on the jaw; break the teeth of the wicked. <p>RC: “May Your blessing be on Your people.”</p>	
	<p><i>Meditation #3:</i></p> <p>God’s Comfort in Distress over godlessness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How long will men turn God’s glory (what He intends to be significant and sought after) into shame? - How long will men love delusions and seek false gods? <p>FAITH RESPONSE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Lord has set apart the godly for Himself. The Lord will hear me when I call. - While angry about the sin, don’t sin but rather search your own heart and be silent. - Offer these righteous sacrifices of pride and anger by trusting in the Lord. - “Let the light of Your face shine upon us, O Lord. You have filled my heart with greater joy than...” <p>RC: “...for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.”</p>	
	<p><i>Meditation #4:</i></p> <p>Refuge in Worship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Give ear...O Lord. - Consider my sighing. - Listen to my cry for help. - In the morning I lay my requests...and wait in expectation. 	

<p>frighten me no more.”</p> <p>“I loathe my very life;”</p> <p>“If I am guilty – woe to me! Even if I am innocent, I cannot lift my head, for I am full of shame and drowned in my affliction.”</p> <p>“Are all these words to go unanswered? Is this talker to be vindicated?” Zophar</p> <p>“I am not inferior to you. Who does not know these things? I have become a laughing stock to my friends...though righteous and blameless!”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - God takes no pleasure in evil. - The arrogant cannot be in God’s presence of true power. - God destroys liars. - God abhors bloodthirsty and deceitful men. - I will come into Your house in reverence. - I will bow down toward Your holy temple. - Lead me, O Lord in Your righteousness (contrary to the wicked – truth and love) - Declare them guilty O God! - Let their intrigues be their downfall. - Banish them for their many sins. - But let all who take refuge in You be glad; let them ever sing for joy. <p>RC: “For surely, O Lord, you bless the righteous; You surround them with Your favor as with a shield.”</p>	
<p>“Only grant me these two things... Withdraw Your hand from me... Then summon me and I will answer...”</p> <p>“Are you the first man ever born?... Do you listen in on God’s council?” Eliphaz</p> <p>“I have sewed sackcloth over my skin and buried my brow in the dust. My face is red with weeping, deep shadows ring my eyes; yet my hands have been free of violence and my prayer is pure.”</p> <p>“Even now my witness is in heaven; my advocate is on high. My intercessor is my friend as my eyes pour out tears to God... Only a few years will pass before I go on the journey of no return.”</p>	<p>Meditation #5</p> <p>Seeking mercy in the midst of discipline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not rebuke me in Your anger. - Be merciful to me, Lord... - O Lord, heal me... - My soul is in anguish... - How long... - Turn O Lord and deliver me... - I am worn out from groaning... - My eyes grow weak with sorrow... <p>FAITH RESPONSE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Away from me, evil doers - The Lord has heard me... - The Lord accepts my prayer. - All my enemies will be ashamed... <p>RC:</p>	

...For the Lord gives wisdom, and from His mouth come knowledge and understanding. He holds victory in store for the upright, He is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for He guards the course of the just and protects the way of His faithful ones.

Then you will **understand** what is right and just

and fair—**every good path**.

For **wisdom will enter your heart,**

and **knowledge will be pleasant to your soul.**

Discretion will protect you,

and ***understanding*** will guard you.

Proverbs 2:6-11

Believers are to be one with Christ just as Job experienced the sufferings of the sinless Lamb of God and Paul went through an abundance of trials and tribulations...

“We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive (by the Holy Spirit living in us) are always being given over to death (death to selfishness and self-delusion) for Jesus’ sake (because we’re living for Him alone), so that His life (of love, truth, and holiness) may be revealed in our mortal body. So then death is at work in us, but life is at work in you. (when we die to selfish sin, we enable God’s love and life to bless and inspire those we are in relationship with.)”

2 Corinthians 4:10-12

Reflection: Is your thought life and your faith conforming to that of the Scriptures? Can you say you are truly one with Christ, that your baptism into His death and resurrection is a frequent experience? Are His thoughts becoming your thoughts? Are His struggles becoming your struggles? Is His victory your victory? Are you being renewed day by day (2 Cor.4:16)

Psalms:

The Heart of Worship: Faith, Warfare, and Praise

**The Mind of Messiah [Faithful and True]
[Life through the Eyes of the Faithful One]**

“I pray also that the **eyes of your heart** may be enlightened in order that you may **know the hope** to which He has called you, **the riches** of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and **His incomparably great power** for us who **believe**. That **[POWER]** is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when

**He raised Him from the dead and seated
Him at His right hand in the heavenly places**

far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the age to come.” Ephesians 1:18-20

Book 1	
1	The Way of Blessedness: Meditation on the Word of God
2	Kiss the Son, God's King: Trust and serve Him
3	Many enemies; I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people; ARISE, O LORD; SAVE ME, O MY GOD!
4	How long, O you sons of men, will you turn my glory to shame...love worthlessness and seek falsehood?...There are many who say, “Who will show us any good?” You have put gladness in my heart...I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety.
5	In the morning I will direct it to You, and I will look up. For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, nor shall evil dwell with You...But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; in fear of You I will worship toward your holy temple...The Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man...for there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is destruction; their throat is an open tomb...but let all those rejoice who put their trust in You;

6	O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger, nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are troubled...I am weary with my groaning...I drench my couch with my tears...Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity; For the Lord has heard the voice of my weeping...Let all my enemies be ashamed and greatly troubled...suddenly.
7	O Lord my God, in You I put my trust; save me from all those who persecute me...if I have done ...iniquity...repaid evil to him who was at peace with me...let the enemy pursue me and overtake me...lay my honor in the dust...Arise O Lord, in Your anger; Lift Yourself up because of the rage of my enemies...Behold the wicked brings forth iniquity...his trouble shall return upon his own head...I will praise the Lord according to His righteousness,”
8	O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, who have set Your glory above the heavens!...what is man that You are mindful of him...for You have bade him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor...You have put all things under his feet...O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth!
9	I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works...my enemies...shall fall and perish at Your presence...O enemy, destructions are finished forever!...the Lord also will be a refuge for the oppressed...the nations have sunk down in the pit which they made...the wicked shall be turned into hell...for the needy shall not always be forgotten...Arise O Lord...put them in fear...that the nations may know themselves to be but men.
10	Why do You stand afar off, O Lord?...for the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; he blesses the greedy and renounces the Lord...his ways are always prospering; he sits in the lurking places of the villages...he has said in his heart, “God has forgotten...He will never see.” Arise O Lord!...But You have seen...You are the helper of the fatherless...The Lord is King forever and ever...You will prepare their heart; You will cause Your ear to hear, to do justice...that the man of the earth may oppress no more.
11	In the Lord I put my trust...For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; His countenance beholds the upright.
12	Help, Lord, for the godly man ceases!...The wicked prowl on every side, when vileness is exalted among the sons of men.
13	How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?...But I have trusted in Your mercy...I will sing to the Lord, because He has dealt bountifully with me.
14	The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good...Oh, that the salvation of Israel would come out of Zion! When the Lord brings back the captivity of His people, let Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad.
15	Lord, who may abide in Your tabernacle?...He who does these things shall never be moved.
16	Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust...You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
17	Hear a just cause, O Lord, attend to my cry; give ear to my prayer which is not from deceitful lips...As for me, I will see Your face in

	righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.	
18	I will love You, O Lord, my strength...The pangs of death surrounded me...in my distress I called upon the Lord...then the earth shook...He bowed the heavens...The Lord thundered...He sent out His arrows...the foundations of the world were uncovered...He drew me out of many waters...He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me...For You will light my lamp...For by You I can run against a troop...leap over a wall. As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the Lord is proven; He is a shield to all who trust in Him...It is God who arms me with strength, and makes my way perfect...my feet like the feet of deer...He teaches my hands to make war...I have pursued me enemies and overtaken them...then I beat them as fine as the dust...the Lord lives! Blessed be my Rock!...Great deliverance He gives to His king...to David and his descendants forevermore.	
19	The heavens declare the glory of God...the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;...let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.	
20	May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble...now I know that the Lord saves His anointed; He will answer him from His holy heaven...Save Lord! May the King answer us when we call.	
21	The King shall have joy in Your strength, O Lord; and in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice! You have given him his heart's desire, and have not withheld the request of his lips...Be exalted, O Lord, in Your own strength! We will sing and praise Your power.	
22	My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning?...A posterity shall serve Him. It will be recounted of the Lord to the next generation, they will come and declare His righteousness to a people who will be born, that He has done this.	
23	The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want...surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.	
27	The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?...One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple...Wait on the Lord; be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the Lord!	
32	Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered...Many sorrows shall be to the wicked; but he who trusts in the Lord, mercy shall surround him. Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous; and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!	
40	I waited patiently for the Lord; and He inclined to me, and heard my cry...Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. Then I said, "Behold, I come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart."...Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; Let such as love Your salvation say continually, "The Lord be magnified!" But I am poor and needy; Yet the Lord thinks upon me.	

	You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God.	
41	Blessed is he who considers the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble. The Lord will preserve him and keep him alive, and he will be blessed on the earth; You will not deliver him to the will of his enemies...By this I know that You are will pleased with me, because my enemy does not triumph over me. As for me, You uphold me in my integrity, and set me before Your face forever. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen.	
Book 2		
42	As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God...Why are you cast down, O my soul...for I shall yet praise Him, the help of my countenance and my God.	
45	My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the King; my tongue is the pen of a ready writer. You are fairer than the sons of men; grace is poured upon Your lips...Your throne, O God, is forever...You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You...the royal daughter is all glorious within the palace...she shall be brought to the King...I will make Your name to be remembered in all generations; therefore the people shall praise You forever and ever.	
62	Truly my soul silently waits for God; from Him comes my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation...my soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him. He only is my rock and my salvation...power belongs to God. Also to You, O Lord, belongs mercy; for You render to each one according to his work.	
63	O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water...the king shall rejoice in God; everyone who swears by Him shall glory; but the mouth of those who speak lies shall be stopped.	
72	Give the king Your judgments, O God, and Your righteousness to the king's Son...His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun. and men shall be blessed in Him; all nations shall call Him blessed...and let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.	
Book 3		
73	Truly God is good to Israel, to such as are pure in heart...it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all Your works.	
85	Lord, You have been favorable to Your land...mercy and truth have met together...truth shall spring out of the earth...righteousness will go before Him, and shall make His footsteps our pathway.	
87	His foundation is in the holy mountains. The Lord loves the gates of Zion...both the singers and the players on instruments say, "All my springs are in you."	
89	I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever... "I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: Your seed I will establish forever, and build up your throne to all generations...I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before Me."	
Book 4		
90	Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth...from everlasting to everlasting, You are God...and let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon	

	us...establish the work of our hands.	
91	He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."	
103	Bless the Lord, O my soul,...forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your iniquities...heals all your diseases...redeems your life from destruction...crowns you with lovingkindness...satisfies your mouth with good things...The Lord has established His throne...and His kingdom rules over all...Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion. Bless the Lord, O my soul!	
106	Praise the Lord! Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord?...save us, O Lord, our God...to give thanks to Your holy name, to triumph in Your praise. Blessed be the Lord God is Israel from everlasting to everlasting! And let all people say, "Amen!" Praise the Lord!	
Book 5		
107	Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever...whoever is wise will observe these things, and they will understand the lovingkindness of the Lord.	
110	The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool." The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!	
119	MEDITATIONS on the EXCELLENCIES of the WORD of GOD	
132	Lord, remember David and all his afflictions...The Lord has sworn in truth to David... "I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body...His enemies I will clothe with shame, but upon Himself His crown shall flourish."	
135	Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord...Blessed be the Lord...	
138	I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever...my mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord...forever.	
139	O Lord, You have searched me and known me...see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.	
143	Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications!...In Your mercy cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul; for I am Your servant.	
144	Blessed be the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war...	
145	I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever...my mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord...forever.	
146	Praise the Lord!...the Lord shall reign forever – Your God, O Zion, to all generations. Praise the Lord!	
147	Praise the Lord!...He has not dealt thus with any nation; and as for His judgments, they have not known them. Praise the Lord!	
148	Praise the Lord!...from the heavens...in the heights...all His angels...hosts...sun and moon...stars of light...heavens...waters...He has exalted the horn of His people, the praise of all His saints [CHRIST] – of the children of Israel, a people near to Him. Praise the Lord!	
149	Praise the Lord! sing to the Lord a new song, and His praise in the assembly of saints...let the saints be joyful in glory...to execute on them [the nations] the written judgment – this honor have all His saints. Praise the Lord!	
150	Praise the Lord!...in His sanctuary...in His mighty firmament...for	

	His mighty acts...according to His excellent greatness!...with the sound of the trumpet...lute and harp...timbrel and dance...stringed instruments and flutes...loud cymbals...let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!	
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“I pray that out of His glorious riches

He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being,

so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.”

Ephesians 3:16-17a

Synthesis:

When Christ dwells in us through faith [the mind and heart that meditates on His Word, responding to all of life faithfully, as modeled in the Psalms], we will be rooted and grounded in love [for true divine love meditates on God’s Word, God’s King, and God’s salvation] and be able to comprehend what is the width and length and depth and height – to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; and thus be filled with all the fullness of God.

This is where the power’s at! Living a life of love comes through a heart that is fully alive through faith, warfare, and praise [WORSHIP]. Only the heart that sees life as God sees (through Christ) is the heart truly alive! Raised [by resurrection power] to be one with Christ!

REFLECTION:

Compare and contrast your meditations with those in Psalms. Determine to learn faithful meditation, to think with a renewed mind that is in connection to the Head and the Body of Christ where love is not hypocritical but powerful; where evil is overcome by good. (Rom.12)