

**PSALMS FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY
WEEK TWO**

LOSING THE FACADE

Last week in our devotional, we talked about the importance of our history as a Christian Church found in the book of Psalms. When we look at our past as a Church, we witness how God has been faithful to all generations. Knowing God's faithfulness allows us to place our trust in God today and in the future in the assurance that His faithfulness will never end.

This week, we will examine a concept that is difficult for many in our culture to grasp: vulnerability. Those of us who live in the twenty-first century can be very proud people. What you see on the outside is not always who we really are. We hide behind our facades. Our exteriors can be hard to break through.

The Psalms reveal to us that we can and need to be vulnerable before God and before each other. The psalmists shared their deepest desires with God, whether good or bad. God knows how we really feel, so why do we hide behind our facades at times when we approach God in worship and prayer? Why are we so concerned with how other people perceive us? Pride! That's why. Pride is a dangerous thing and it can ruin our intimacy with God when we worry about what other people think about us. The psalmists knew true intimacy with their God and we can learn much from them.

The psalmists were brave! At times, have you been afraid to say to God, "Where are you? You seem like You are nowhere to be found and I really need You to show Your face right now!" How brave are you when you approach God? He knows what we are thinking, so why do we not use the words that truly express our hearts' feelings and desires?

This week, you are encouraged to be as honest with God as you possibly can be. God seeks worshipers who are honest and vulnerable in His presence. (God seeks worshipers who will worship Him in Spirit and in Truth - John 4) When we lament, He can break through our despair and turn our mourning into dancing as long as we let Him in. If we continue to build a barrier between God and us, we limit His authority and His power, therefore denying God's ultimate reign in our lives.

**DAILY BIBLE STUDY
WEEK TWO – PSALMS OF DISORIENTATION**

Below, you will find seven Psalm readings for the next week. Each of these Psalms is considered a Psalm of Disorientation. Examine the faithfulness of God found in each Psalm. God longs to hear from His children, whether we are praising Him, thanking Him, or questioning Him. It can be difficult to spend an entire week in the Psalms of Disorientation/Lament, but we have seasons in our lives when lamentation is appropriate and we need to lament before God. Whether these Psalms reflect your current situation or not, remember a time when you cried out to God in lament as you read these Psalms. You are also encouraged to lift up the prayer at the bottom of the page each day as you close your devotional time or compose your own prayer.

Ask yourself these questions as you read each of these Psalms:

1. What was the psalmist trying to express in each Psalm? Can you associate with the psalmist and his feelings?
2. What is God saying to me TODAY through each Psalm? How can I learn to be more vulnerable before God as evidenced in each of these Psalms?

Sunday: Psalm 13 (Psalm of Personal Lament)

Monday: Psalm 86 (Psalm of Personal Lament)

Tuesday: Psalm 74 (Psalm of Communal Lament)

Wednesday: Psalm 79 (Psalm of Communal Lament)

Thursday: Psalm 88 (Psalm of Lament)

Friday: Psalm 51 (Psalm of Personal Lament)

Saturday: Psalm 130 (Psalm of Lament)

Prayer:

God, I desire to be transparent in Your presence. Give me the strength to be completely vulnerable before You in private and in public. Through Your Word in the Psalms, teach me to share my heart with You completely. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.