

A. PROMISE

- In Psalm 25, we see David focus on God's promises. These truths became the footing upon which he walked in life, leading him along the Way of Wisdom.
- Today we will find a treasure trove of promises found in the remaining section of this psalm: Ps 25:12 – 22 NIV -- Who, then, are those who fear the LORD? He will instruct them in the ways they should choose. ¹³ They will spend their days in prosperity, and their descendants will inherit the land. ¹⁴ The LORD confides in those who fear him; he makes his covenant known to them. ¹⁵ My eyes are ever on the LORD, for only he will release my feet from the snare.
¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted. ¹⁷ Relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish. ¹⁸ Look on my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins. ¹⁹ See how numerous are my enemies and how fiercely they hate me! ²⁰ Guard my life and rescue me; do not let me be put to shame, for I take refuge in you. ²¹ May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope, LORD, is in you. ²² Redeem Israel, O God, from all their troubles!
- Previously, we've seen that the promise of wisdom is given to those who ask for it and to the humble. (v.9) Now we find another important condition to consider. (v. 12)
- Numerous promises are made to those whose hearts fear the Lord. David wanted to make sure that this was true of his life and we do, too!
- Fear of the Lord (FOL) is being humbly aware of God's holiness, power, and ultimate authority. It is responding in complete devotion, dependence and obedience to Him.
- David would've known from Scripture the great importance of reverentially fearing the Lord: Dt 10:12-13 NIV -- What does the LORD your God ask of you but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, ¹³ and to observe the LORD's commands and decrees that I am giving you today for your own good?
- Proverbs tells us that FOL is a prerequisite for wisdom: Prov 9:10 -- The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One *is* understanding.
- Fear of the Lord Traits:
 - 1) Obey and follow Him
 - 2) Love Him
 - 3) Serve Him
 - 4) Be wholehearted towards Him
 - 5) Observe His Word (heed, pay attention to, & keep Strong's H8104)
 - 6) Pursue His wisdom
 - 7) Seek to know Him more
- It is in knowing God more deeply and personally and progressively that we develop Fear of the Lord that is an overflow of that knowing vs. a list of requirements to meet.
- Andrew Murray's view of FOL expresses this difference well, describing it as: "deep humility that is afraid of itself, and couples deep confidence in God with an entire distrust in itself. Conscious weakness that knows the subtlety of its own heart always dreads doing anything contrary to the will or honor of God."
- Fear of the Lord is a "good fear" because it sets our hearts on the Way of Wisdom and quiets our "bad fears": "The fear of the Lord tends to take away all other fears."
(Sinclair Ferguson)

- Fear of the Lord Promises: David knew that those who possessed FOL were those who possessed tremendous benefits as well, including:
 - 1) God's instruction (v. 12b)
 - To point out; to show, to teach or confirm (Strong's H3384)
 - 2) God's personal purposes revealed (v. 12c)
 - What He has designed you to do including His specific times, places, people, methods + exclusion of things not in your call (Eph 2:10)
 - 3) Prosperity (v. 13)
 - Welfare, happiness, a life blessed with good things (Strong's H2896)
 - 4) Confidential communion (v. 14)
 - Familiar conversation with God, intimacy (Strong's H5475)
 - 5) Rescue from enemy snares (v.15)
 - Break out, bring forth, lead out, fetch forth, or deliver; to escape or get away (Strong's H3318)
- Walking with the Lord on His Way of Wisdom will lead to growth in intimacy with Him and will surely produce the byproducts of humility, reverential fear and worship in us.
- Insights:
- LISTENING EXERCISE:
Lord, as I look over the description of those who have Fear of the Lord, please show me what is true of me:
Which of these traits do I currently possess?

Which FOL traits need to be developed and/or grow in me?

Spirit, show me any other fears that have my attention in such a way that they hinder me from FOL, or from seeking You and the wisdom You offer:

*Father, thank You for the rich blessings that You pour out on those who fear You!
 There is one particular promise that really speaks to me:*

Lord, I pray that You would fulfill this promise in the circumstances I'm facing. Please help me to believe You and to keep my eyes on You as I wait:

B. PROCESS

- David rightly began his process of dealing with his circumstances by lifting up his soul to God and making sure he was in right relationship with Him. (vv.1, 6-11)
- Next, David lifted up his needs, emotions, and the specifics of his situation to God in prayer, knowing that God is 1) near to, 2) hears and 3) answers those who fear Him: Ps 145:18-19 -- The LORD *is* near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them.
- We are hindered in the Way of Wisdom by prayerlessness. *Why would we miss the opportunity to confide in God and have Him confide in us as He promises to do?* (v. 14)
- We don't pray for reasons that may be lurking beneath the surface of our thoughts and feelings. Some common causes of prayerlessness are that we:
 - 1) Rely too heavily on our feelings
 - 2) Resist being humble and admitting our needs
 - 3) Prefer self-sufficiency to asking and waiting
 - 4) Feel our flesh fighting prayer and prayer fighting our flesh
 - 5) Sometimes don't sense that prayer is accomplishing anything
 - 6) May be remembering legalistic parameters associated with prayer
 - 7) See prayer as a duty vs. relational, life-giving time with God(List adapted from a podcast on Ligonier.org by Nathan Bingham & Burk Parsons)
- Let's bring any of these obstacles that apply to us to the Lord as prayer fodder. We will discover that God will indeed meet us there and free us from these snares.
- All issues are fair game as engage with the Lord. David, did not hold back as he listed his many struggles and how he felt about them as he prayed:
 - Loneliness (v.16)
 - Affliction (v.16)
 - Anguish (v.17)
 - Vulnerability to sin (v.18)
 - Stress/distress (v. 18)
 - Enemies (v.19)
 - Need for refuge (v.20)
 - Need for protection (v. 21)
 - Help maintaining integrity (v. 21)
 - Need for redemption (v. 22)
- Prayer can be expressed in a variety of ways. David is journaling his prayer. We can also pray our prayers with our voices, our tears, and even our groans. (Rom8:26)
- Believers today have the benefit of the prayers recorded in the Bible. When we don't have the words, we can go to prayers like this psalm and pray them back to God.
- Psalm 25 is a great place to begin and to enter more deeply into the Lord's invitation to the Way of Wisdom and closer communion. (See handout "Tools & Techniques: Lectio Divina")
- We don't know the outcome of these prayers, but we do see David enjoying God "confide in" him. (Also translated "the secret of Yahweh" or "intimate circle." (VanGemeren))
- ***Let's follow the example set for us in Psalm 25. We, too, will know by experience the truth that God confides in those who humbly draw near to Him in faith. (v.14)
- Insights:

C. TESTIMONY

D. PERSONAL APPLICATION

- ONE THING
- The One Thing that I'd like to take away from today's class and believe God to accomplish in my life is:

- PONDER THE TRUTH
Which verse or principle stood out to you this week? Write it below taking some time to review it often. Be still in God's presence, alert for new insights. Record them here.

- PROCESSING THE TRUTH
Prayerfully consider the Listening Exercises from this lesson. Ask the Spirit to guide you into a deeper understanding of the truth and to reveal any specific faith steps He is calling you to take. Write down your insights.