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August memory verse: **John 5:39-40 (NKJV)**

³⁹ You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

⁴⁰ But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

**Commentary on Psalms 125, 126, 127, 128, 129 and 130
by, Chuck Smith, Aug. 30, 2020**

[Psalm 125](#). We're still ascending towards Jerusalem.

They that trust in the LORD shall be as mount Zion ([Psa 125:1](#)),

The mount upon which Jerusalem was built.

which cannot be removed, but abideth for ever ([Psa 125:1](#)).

Now the Mount of Olives won't abide forever. Zion will, but the Mount of Olives is soon going to be split by a tremendous earthquake. Right in the middle, a new valley will be formed out of Jerusalem. Now you have the valley of Hinnom, in which the valley of Kidron, and the Tyropean and the Hinnom valley merged in the valley of Hinnom, goes on out of Jerusalem. But there's going to be a new valley going out of Jerusalem when the Mount of Olives splits right in the middle and a new valley forms out of the city. This, of course, will take place when Jesus returns and puts His foot upon the top of the Mount of Olives.

The geologists have discovered a major earth fault right through the center of the Mount of Olives. It doesn't really mean anything to me. The Lord can split it without an earth fault. It shall be split. Actually, it will open up a hole, it will open up an underground river and a new river will come gushing forth out of Jerusalem, flowing into this valley and going clear on down to the Dead Sea. And the fresh waters of this new river that is formed will actually heal the waters of the Dead Sea so that they'll be able to have fish living in the Dead Sea. And it will become a center of the fishing industry. The mount of Zion abides.

As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD is round about his people ([Psa 125:2](#))

So you stand there in Jerusalem, you look and you see the Mount Zion on the south. You see Scopus over towards the north. You see the Mount of Olives on towards the east. Golgotha, Calvary towards the west. As the mountains surround the little city of Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds His people.

from henceforth even for ever ([Psa 125:2](#)).

Surrounded by God. Paul the apostle, when he was talking to the Epicurean philosophers there at the Areopagus on Mars Hill in Greece, in Athens, he said, "I perceive you men are very spiritual." He said, "As I've been going through your city, I've observed the number of idols that you have. Your places of worship. All of the different gods." For the Greeks had deified everything they could think of. You know, the sun, the moon, the planets, they were all deities. And then having run out of stars and planets and constellations to deify, they began to deify even emotions. So they had the god of love, the god of hate, the god of fear, the god of joy, the god of sorrow, the god of grief, and the various gods. They had deified just about anything you could think of.

Now one fellow got an idea, "Maybe we're missing a god. Maybe we haven't thought of him." So he built an altar and he put the inscription over, "To the Unknown God." "Whoever you may be, wherever you might be. We don't want you to feel offended and that you've been slighted. So here, we've got an altar to worship the unknown God."

So Paul said, "I perceive you're very religious. I've seen all of your altars as I've walked through your city." He said, "And one caught my attention. For it was inscribed, 'To the Unknown God.'" He said, "I'd like to tell you about this God. He's the One who made the heaven and the earth and everything that is in them. And in Him we live and move and have our being" ([Acts 17:28](#)) In other words, I am surrounded by Him. I am living in His midst. I live, I move, I have my being in Him.

When Daniel was brought before Belshazzar at this feast, after the writing appeared on the walls, he said, "Belshazzar, God gave to your grandfather this glorious kingdom of Babylon. But he was lifted up with pride. And so God allowed him a period of madness until he realized that it was God who ruled and reigned." And he said, "But this God, the very God in whose hand your breath is, you have not glorified." Surrounded by God. My very breath depended upon Him.

So as the mountains are around about Jerusalem, so God is around about His people. You're surrounded by God. He encompasses us. As the one-hundred-and-thirty-ninth psalm said, "O Lord, Thou hast searched me and known me. You know every time I sit down, every time I stand up." He said, "You have gone before me. You're behind me, and Your hand is upon me." "Thou has beset me before and behind, and Thine hand is upon me" ([Psalm 139:5](#)). Surrounded by God.

I never come to any place in my life but God has not preceded me there. I can look back and see the hand of God, as He was on my life even in the past, even when I wasn't interested. Surrounded by God. Your life is encompassed by Him.

For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity. Do good, O LORD, unto those that be good, and to them that are upright in their hearts. As for such as turn aside unto their crooked ways, the LORD shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity: but peace shall be upon Israel ([Psa 125:3-5](#)).

So, again, the remembrance of the troubles from the cities from whence they were coming. Looking forward again to that time of coming into the consciousness of God's presence.

[Psalm 126:](#)

When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion ([Psa 126:1](#)),

Or when the Lord actually freed Zion from her captivity,

we were like those who dream ([Psa 126:1](#)).

How many times when we see the glorious work of God, it's just like being... it's just like a dream. It's just hard to comprehend. As the children were singing tonight, I was like one who was dreaming. I pastored little churches for so many years, when you dreamed of having a children's choir. And all of the efforts and time and all that we've put in in trying to develop something, and then to just see God do it. You're just sitting there; you're like one who's dreaming. I look at what God has done here, and it's like a dream. There's something that the reality has not yet sunk in. It's funny how that so often in my dreams I dream that I'm back pastoring one of the churches that I've pastored in years gone by and still struggling, and that whole struggle. And I dream that I'm... Man, when I wake up, I think, "Oh no, this is the dream, you know. This can't be real." God's glorious work that we see.

And so the psalmist, "When God worked, delivered Zion, we were just like those that dream." So excited in what God was doing. It just... the reality of it just hardly seem to register.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD has done great things for them ([Psa 126:2](#)).

Oh, how neat it is to just have that kind of joy and freedom to just be able to laugh over the good things that God does.

The LORD has done great things for us; whereof we are glad ([Psa 126:3](#)).

Then the prayer.

Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south. For they that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him ([Psa 126:4-6](#)).

I think that herein is speaking of really the ministry in a sense. Jesus when He spoke of the sower going forth planting the seed, some fell on the wayside, some among the rocks and some among the thorns, others on good ground. Jesus likened the field that was being sown as the world; the seed is the Word of God. And I think that the reference here is much the same as similitude, as we see being the Word of God, and "they that go forth weeping, bearing the precious seed, shall doubtless come again. Those that sow in tears shall reap in joy." I think that the attitude with which we go forth is so important.

Paul the apostle said, "For we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the glory may be to God, and not of us" ([II Corinthians 4:7](#)). The glorious treasure of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the glorious treasure of the Word of God, it's in this earthen vessel. Jesus Christ dwelling in me, the most valuable thing in the universe in this cheap, common clay pot. Earthen vessel is a clay pot. It's a pot made out of earth, out of clay. So God has taken the glorious treasure and He has put it in this common old clay pot. Now anytime I think that this pot is important, then I'm a crackpot. God did the ridiculous. In order that we would not glory in the pot, in the vessel, but that we would glory in the contents.

Now God wants me to pour forth His love to the needy world around me in such a way that they are captivated by Him, not by me. That they're drawn to Him, not to me. So my attitude in going forth is so important. For if I go forth in a haughty attitude, "Well, here I am, you lucky people, you know." And you go forth with this haughty air, God will put you down. "He that humbleth himself shall be exalted; and he that exalteth himself shall be abased" ([Luke 14:11](#)). And God has interesting ways of abasing a person. Just really letting you fall right on your face in front of everybody. You know, just when you're trying to show how graceful and how marvelous you are, zoom... right on your nose.

In going forth it should always be with that sense of awe. "Oh God, I am nothing. But what a glorious treasure I have to share with the world. What a privilege to be a servant of God and to be the instrument through which God works." Never, "Oh God, I understand why You chose me. You've made a good deal when You got me, Lord."

I heard of this church that had just called a new minister fresh out of seminary and he had graduated magna cum laude and he really thought that he had it all together. And so his first Sunday morning, he came in dressed impeccably, cuff at the right length and his sermon was just homiletically perfect, and you know, just everything was just, I mean, he was the epitome of perfection. Came in with that, "Folks, I've got it together" kind of an attitude, you know. And, "How fortunate you are that you called me to be the pastor of your church."

But as he tried to deliver his message, he got confused. He got mixed up. He lost his place. He couldn't get it together. The thing just fell apart and was in shambles. And finally he just stood there, and he was just so confused he couldn't say anything. And he just broke down and he started to weep. And he turned and left just broken, when a dear little saint down towards the front turned to her friend and said, "If he had come in like he went out, he would have gone out like he came in." That's pretty much what this psalm says. "He who sows in tears will reap in joy." Going forth weeping, bearing the precious fruit, you'll doubtless come again bringing the harvest, the sheaves with you. Our attitudes--so important.

[Psalm 127](#) is a psalm that is important for all of us to really get implanted deep in our hearts.

Except the LORD build the house, they labor in vain that build it ([Psa 127:1](#)):

I spent far too many years laboring in vain, trying to build the Lord's house. Trying to build the Lord's church. I used every gimmick that came down the pike, and there's a lot of them. There are people that are cranking out programs every day, sending them out to churches. And you can buy all kinds of programs: church growth programs, and financial programs. And we get letters all the time of some new program that they've devised for church growth or whatever. They'll come out for a fee and do a demographics on your community and determine just what kind of a program you should enter into to attract the community that you're in, and a sociological demographic. They've got everything all figured out. It's just like if you're trying to merchandise peanuts in an area. They'll come out and they'll take a survey of the people and find out just how to package the peanuts to sell them best, you know. Will they go best in the little cellophane wrap or a little box? Or do you need a can? And the colors and everything else. They've got the whole thing doped out. Well, they got them doped out for churches, too.

And I worked every program that I could trying to build the church of Jesus Christ... all to no avail. I was laboring in vain. Except the Lord build the house, you're spinning your wheels. It's just a lot of futile effort.

except the LORD keep the city, the watchman wakes up in vain ([Psa 127:1](#)).

Unless God keeps our house. Unless the Lord build our house, you know, you're just worrying in vain. You can't do anything. We've got to just trust the Lord.

It is vain for you to rise up early, and to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows ([Psa 127:2](#)):

Now, not to rise up early to work, but to eat the bread of sorrows.

for so he giveth his beloved sleep ([Psa 127:2](#)).

You know, a lot of people pound the pillow all night long worried about things. It's vain to spend the night worrying.

Now the psalmist begins to talk about the family and the family ties and the strength of the nation is in the strength of the family. And recognizing that this principle is true, he turns now his attention towards the family and declares,

Lo, children are a heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward ([Psa 127:3](#)).

Years ago we were living in Tucson, Arizona, and we had a captain in the Air Force that was living next door to us. And they were a very friendly couple, Jim and Jan and their three daughters. And because our driveways were adjacent to each other, according to the sociological books, you have a... if your driveway is adjacent to your neighbor's driveway, then you'll get acquainted with that neighbor. It's sociologically compatible homes. And it's interesting in the demographics, sociological demographics, according to where your driveway is and where your house is in the block and so forth, they can show you which houses you'll be friends of the neighbors around. It's a crazy deal and they've worked it all out.

But we had sociological compatible driveways and so we got acquainted with them. And through our acquaintance, Jan came to receive Jesus Christ. And ultimately, Jim accepted the Lord. Shortly after Jim accepted the Lord, he was transferred to Alaska. He was a pilot of the B29s and I got a letter from Jim, which I will treasure and prize as long as I live. Jim had been a professor at Cornell University prior to being recalled into the Air Force. And he wrote in his letter of his agnosticism that he had had, of his attitudes towards his three daughters. He said, "I used to say that children were the scourge of the earth." And he said, "I hated being tied down in marriage. And I hated being tied down by my girls. I couldn't wait to get away. I love the missions where I would fly off overseas and all and I could just get away from them for a while." He said, "But since receiving Jesus Christ, since your sharing His love with me and my finding out how glorious it is to know the Lord and follow Him," he said, "you know, I'm so lonely for my family I can hardly wait for them to get things packed and get up here with me." He said, "I have such a love for my little girls. They're such a blessing, they're such a heritage, you know." And oh the way the Lord can turn things around in a person's life. Giving us the true sense of value for children are a heritage of the Lord, and the fruit of the womb is His reward.

As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of his youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them ([Psa 127:4,5](#)):

So the quiver full of children.

they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate ([Psa 127:5](#)).

[Psalm 128](#)

Continuing to deal with the family and all, the next psalm.

Blessed is every one that feareth [or reverences] the LORD; and walks in his ways. For thou shalt eat the labor of your hands: happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee ([Psa 128:1-2](#)).

Who is that? The man who reverences the Lord and walks in the ways of the Lord. You'll eat the fruit of your own labor. You'll be happy. It will be well with you.

Your wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of your house: and your children like olive plants round about the table ([Psa 128:3](#)).

So all these little olive skin kids sitting around the table, you know. I love it. Ten little faces, big smiles.

Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that reverences the LORD. The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion ([Psa 128:4-5](#)):

Now we're still coming towards Jerusalem and we're still looking forward to getting there.

and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel ([Psa 128:5,6](#)).

So you get to see your grandkids and that's neat.

[Psalm 129](#)

Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth, may Israel now say: Many a time have they afflicted me from my youth: yet they have not prevailed against me ([Psa 129:1-2](#)).

So here is Israel, and look how many times they are being afflicted. Even still 2,700 years later after this psalm was written, still Israel being afflicted. Yet, hey, they have not prevailed against her. She's still there. She's still a nation. She still stands up to the world.

The plowers plowed upon my back: they made long their furrows. But the LORD is righteous: he hath cut asunder the cords of the wicked. Let them all be confounded and turned back that hate Zion. Let them be as the grass upon the housetops, which withers before it grows up: Wherewith the mower cannot fill his hand; nor he that bindeth the sheaves of his bosom ([Psa 129:3-7](#)).

Now on the roof, of course, dust will blow up on the roof and sometimes grass seed, and you'll have little sprouts of grass, but never enough to harvest. So let them be like the grass that just grows up on the roof.

Neither do they which go by say, The blessing of the LORD be upon you: we bless you in the name of the LORD ([Psa 129:8](#)).

This is in the negative sense. But putting it in a positive sense, how glorious it would be to go by your neighbor and say, "I bless you in the name of the Lord. Blessings be upon thee. I bless you in the name of the Lord." I think it's another good phrase to pick up on.

[Psalm 130](#)

Out of the depths have I cried unto thee, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice: let your ears be attentive to the voice of my [prayers or] supplications. For if you, LORD, should start [making a list] marking iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that you may be revered. I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning. Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption. He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities ([Psa 130:1-8](#)).

So if the Lord should begin to keep an account of iniquities, none of us would make it. Oh, how thankful we are that with God there is mercy; there is forgiveness. Oh, how happy is the man whose sins are forgiven. "With the Lord there is mercy, and plenteous redemption."