

Praying with Psalms
(all kinds of psalms,
according to Psalms)

December 8, 2019

Tying It Together

Jeff's teaching on Ephesians in his series on Paul's Middle Letters.

Randy's teaching last week on "Using the Psalms."

Steve's teaching in September on "Praying with All Kinds of Prayer."

Steve's teaching in 2005 on "The Message of the Psalms."

Jeff's teaching on Ephesians in his series on Paul's Middle Letters.

Framed by two prayers:

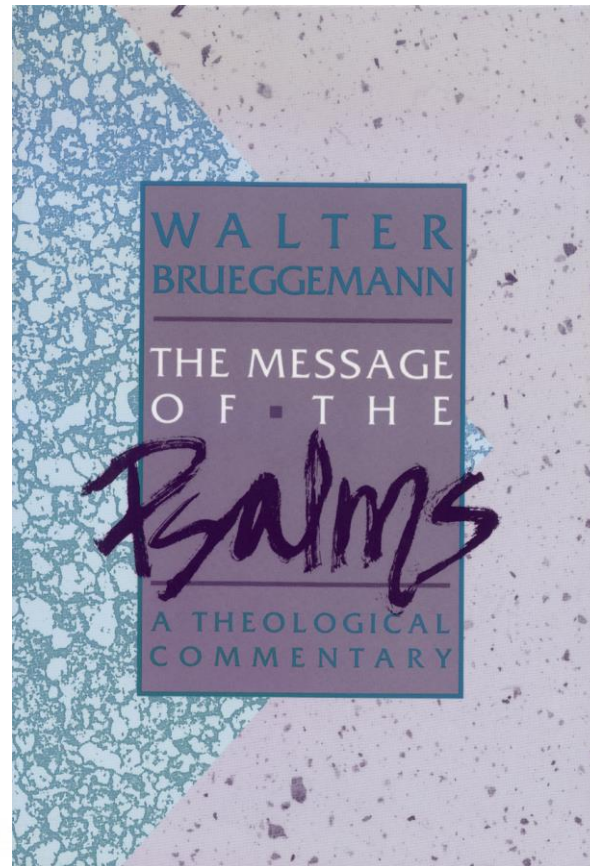
- Ephesians 1:15-23. Main idea: To be fully enlightened to truly know our calling and the power available to Christ and His church to accomplish God's purposes.
- Ephesians 3:14-21. Main idea: To have the power to comprehend God's plan (Christ and His Church), that God might be glorified in the Church and in Christ.

Randy's teaching last week on "Using the Psalms."

Master a tool kit (for using Psalms):

1. Read several a day (5 per day).
2. Identify 10-20 that you want to be able to use.
3. Make sure the 10-20 cover the range of types (Orientation, Disorientation, and New Orientation).

Randy's teaching last week on
"Using the Psalms."



Psalms of **Orientation**

- Captures the things about God and his dealings that are constant and are the reason for blessing and stability in our lives
- Expresses the faith matters that are settled and trustworthy, the matters we can bank our lives on

Psalms of **Disorientation**

- Takes you through a journey of processing brokenness, heartache, injustice, disequilibrium
- Shows how God's people navigate through disorienting circumstances in light of God's character and larger purposes

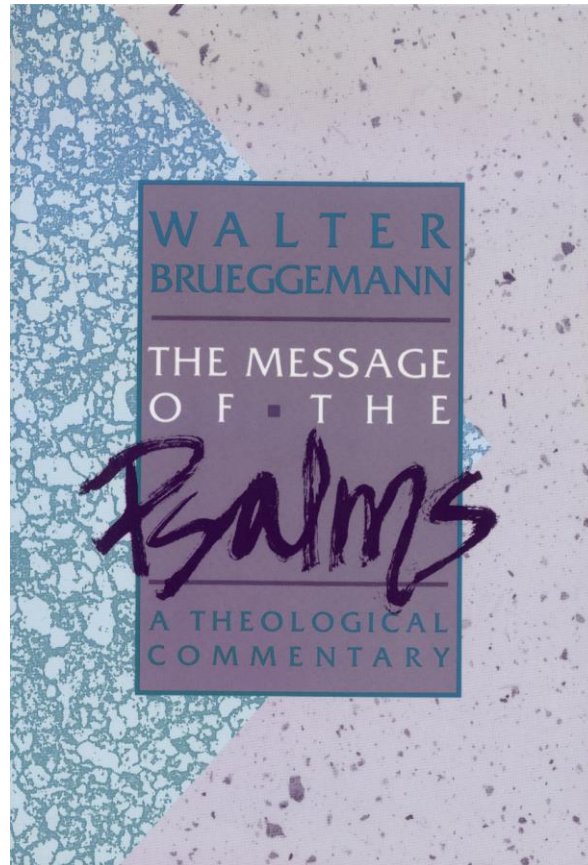
Psalms of **New Orientation**

- Fresh experiences of God's goodness and power emerging out of disequilibrium
- Expressions of thanks for God's intervention that makes new life possible

Steve's teaching in September on "Praying with All Kinds of Prayer."

1. Pray Way Beyond Yourself.
4. Pray Scripture.
5. Pray Galactically (out of this world).
6. Use Written Prayers.
10. Pray in Faith.

Steve's teaching in 2005 on "The Message of the Psalms."





**Psalms of
Orientation**

June 12

**Psalms of
Disorientation**

June 19

**Psalms of
New
Orientation**

June 26

A Proper Perspective on Psalms of Disorientation

“The problem with a hymnody that focuses on equilibrium, coherence, and symmetry (as in Chapter 2 on Psalms of Orientation) is that it may deceive and cover over. Life is not like that. Life is also savagely marked by disequilibrium, incoherence, and unrelieved asymmetry. . . . It is a curious fact that the church has, by and large, continued to sing songs of orientation in a world increasingly experienced as disoriented. That may be laudatory. It could be that such relentlessness is an act of bold defiance in which these psalms of order and reliability are flung in the face of the disorder. . . . But at best, this is only partly true.

A Proper Perspective on Psalms of Disorientation

“It is my judgment that this action of the church is less an evangelical defiance guided by faith, and much more a frightened, numb denial and deception that does not want to acknowledge or experience the disorientation of life. The reason for such relentless affirmation of orientation seems to come, not from faith, but from the wishful optimism of our culture. Such a denial and cover-up, which I take it to be, is an odd inclination for passionate Bible users, given the large number of psalms that are songs of lament, protest, and complaint about the incoherence that is experienced in the world. At least it is clear that a church that goes on signing ‘happy songs’ in the face of raw reality is doing something very different from what the Bible itself does.”

Walter Brueggemann, *The Message of the Psalms*, p. 51.

Psalms of New Orientation

“New orientation is not a return to the old stable orientation, for there is no such going back. . . . Rather, the speaker and community of faith are often surprised by grace, when there emerges in present life a new possibility that is inexplicable, wrought by the inscrutable power and goodness of God. That newness cannot be explained, predicted, or programmed. We do not know how such a newness happens any more that we know how a dead person is raised to life, how a leper is cleansed, or how a blind person can see.”

Brueggemann, p. 124

Psalms of New Orientation

“All these prayers and songs speak of the intervening action of God to give life in a world where death seems to have the best and strongest way. The songs are not about the ‘natural’ outcome of trouble, but about the decisive transformation made possible by this God who causes new life where none seems possible.”

Brueggemann, p. 125



**Psalms of
Orientation**

**Psalms of
Disorientation**

**New
Orientation**

**Psalms of
New
Orientation**

Uses of Psalms

Good
Better
Best

Good Uses of Psalms

- Memorize verses that express great truths.
Psalm 23:1 “The Lord is my shepherd.”
- Sing praise and worship songs that use excerpts from Psalms.

Better Uses of Psalms

- Memorize entire psalms to help in times of need.
Psalm 23 “The Lord is my shepherd . . .”
- Sing praise and worship songs that use entire psalms.
- Use psalms of each type (orientation, disorientation, new orientation).

Best Uses of Psalms

- Keep the author's style in mind.
- Keep the Book of Psalms in mind.
- Keep adjacent psalms in mind.
- Keep the new orientation in mind (whether you are using psalms of orientation, disorientation, or new orientation).

Praying with Psalms

Psalm 145

Psalm 88

Psalm 23

Psalm 145

A psalm of praise. Of David.

¹ I will exalt you, my God the King;

I will praise your name for ever and ever.

² Every day I will praise you

and extol your name for ever and ever.

³ Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.

⁴ One generation commends your works to
another; they tell of your mighty acts.

Psalm 145

⁵ They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—

and I will meditate on your wonderful works.

⁶ They tell of the power of your awesome works and I will proclaim your great deeds.

⁷ They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

⁸ The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

Psalm 145

- ⁹ The LORD is good to all;
he has compassion on all he has made.
- ¹⁰ All your works praise you, LORD;
your faithful people extol you.
- ¹¹ They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might,
- ¹² so that all people may know of your mighty
acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Psalm 145

¹³ Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations.

The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.

¹⁴ The LORD upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

¹⁵ The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time.

¹⁶ You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

Psalm 145

- 17** The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does.
- 18** The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.
- 19** He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.
- 20** The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.
- 21** My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

Psalm 145

1. Read it prayerfully.
2. Identify single lines that are meaningful to you.
3. Pray it as a group, alternating sides.

Psalm 145 (via Paula Carroll)

Awesome, abundant goodness to all,
Bestowing His love when on Him they do call.
Compassionate, gracious to all He has made,
Dominion endures, Your Kingdom shall not fade.
Everlasting, exalting Your name upon high.
Faithful forever, Your hand always nigh.
Gracious and glorious, most worthy of praise.
Holy and loving, Your name we do raise.

Psalm 145 (via Paula Carroll)

I praise you each day, forever more.

Joyfully singing, O Lord I adore.

Kingdom of glory, all in Your sight.

Lifting the bowed down, You are their light.

Majestic and mighty, meditate on.

Near to His creatures from dusk until dawn.

Opening your hand, satisfying every thing.

Proclaiming Your greatness, let heaven ring.

Psalm 145 (via Paula Carroll)

Quick to the side of all He has made.

Rich in His love; righteousness never fades.

Sing of His splendor, all that is right.

Tell of His glory, speak of His might.

Upholds the fallen, their lives to save.

Voices cry out, to them food He gave.

Wonderful works, watching over me.

Exalting, extolling, Your great majesty.

You and your ways, yes they are my picks.

Zion, no wait, that's Psalm 146.

Psalm 145 (via Paula Carroll)

1. Read it prayerfully.
2. Identify single lines that are meaningful to you.
3. Pray it as a group, alternating sides.

Best Uses of Psalms

- Keep the author's style in mind. Acrostic.
- Keep the Book of Psalms in mind. Leads the final set of psalms in the book. Follows the other 144 psalms!
- Keep adjacent psalms in mind. Psalm 146.
- Keep the new orientation in mind (whether you are using psalms of orientation, disorientation, or new orientation). Depends on how you use it.

Psalm 145 (via Paula Carroll)

1. Read it prayerfully.
2. Identify single lines that are meaningful to you.
3. Pray it as a group, alternating sides.
4. Pray it with a New Orientation in mind (going beyond mere statements of Orientation).

Praying with Psalms

Psalm 145

Psalm 88

Psalm 23

Psalm 88

A song. A psalm of the Sons of Korah. For the director of music. According to *mahalath leannoah*. A *maskil* of Heman the Ezrahite.

¹ LORD, you are the God who saves me;
day and night I cry out to you.

² May my prayer come before you;
turn your ear to my cry.

³ I am overwhelmed with troubles
and my life draws near to death.

⁴ I am counted among those who go down to the pit;
I am like one without strength.

Psalm 88

- ⁵ I am set apart with the dead,
like the slain who lie in the grave,
whom you remember no more,
who are cut off from your care.
- ⁶ You have put me in the lowest pit,
in the darkest depths.
- ⁷ Your wrath lies heavily on me;
you have overwhelmed me with all your waves.
- ⁸ You have taken from me my closest friends
and have made me repulsive to them.
I am confined and cannot escape;

Psalm 88

⁹ my eyes are dim with grief.

I call to you, LORD, every day;

I spread out my hands to you.

¹⁰ Do you show your wonders to the dead?

Do their spirits rise up and praise you?

¹¹ Is your love declared in the grave,

your faithfulness in Destruction?

¹² Are your wonders known in the place of darkness,

or your righteous deeds in the land of oblivion?

¹³ But I cry to you for help, LORD;

in the morning my prayer comes before you.

Psalm 88

¹⁴ Why, LORD, do you reject me
and hide your face from me?

¹⁵ From my youth I have suffered and been close to
death;

I have borne your terrors and am in despair.

¹⁶ Your wrath has swept over me;
your terrors have destroyed me.

¹⁷ All day long they surround me like a flood;
they have completely engulfed me.

¹⁸ You have taken from me friend and neighbor—
darkness is my closest friend.



PSALM 88
JASON SILVER

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RgdViCejfpk>

GOING TO CHURCH IN THE FIRST CENTURY

Psalm 88

1. Listen prayerfully.
2. Identify single lines that are meaningful to you.
3. Listen with AIDS orphans (and/or your grief) in mind.

Best Uses of Psalms

- Keep the author's style in mind. Mournful.
- Keep the Book of Psalms in mind. End of Book III.
- Keep adjacent psalms in mind. Psalm 89, 90.
- Keep the new orientation in mind (whether you are using psalms of orientation, disorientation, or new orientation). Depends on how you use it.

Psalm 89

- ¹ I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;
with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known
through all generations.
- ² I will declare that your love stands firm forever,
that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.
- ³ You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant,
- ⁴ 'I will establish your line forever
and make your throne firm through all generations.'" . . .

Psalm 90 (start of Book 4)

A prayer of Moses the man of God.

¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.

² Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God. . . .

Best Uses of Psalms

- Keep the new orientation in mind (whether you are using psalms of orientation, disorientation, or new orientation). Depends on how you use it.
 - Listen with AIDS orphans (and/or your grief) in mind, but also with a knowledge of God and something of His greater plan (such as you get from Psalm 89 and 90).



PSALM 88
JASON SILVER

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RgdViCejfpk>

GOING TO CHURCH IN THE FIRST CENTURY

Praying with Psalms

Psalm 145

Psalm 88

Psalm 23

Psalm 23

A psalm of David.

¹ The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,

³ he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.

⁴ Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

Psalm 23

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

⁶ Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

Best Uses of Psalms

- Keep the author's style in mind. Flips between "he" and "you" in reference to the Lord.
- Keep the Book of Psalms in mind. Bible history.
- Keep adjacent psalms in mind. Psalm 22, 24.
- Keep the new orientation in mind (whether you are using psalms of orientation, disorientation, or new orientation). It depends on how you use it.

Praying with Psalms

Psalm 145

Psalm 88

Psalm 23

Best Uses of Psalms

- Keep the author's style in mind.
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