

The Revelation of Christ in Life

by Ed Miller

Spiritual mindedness is having our minds stayed on God, seeing Jesus in everyday life and in Scripture, and beholding Him in life and in the Bible, which brings us life and peace.

Duration: 58:24

Scripture: Psalm 25:14-15, Matthew 6:33, Mark 1:45, Luke 24:45

Topics: "Gods Presence", "Spiritual Rest"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the importance of reflecting on the wonderful things that God says. He uses Psalm 46 as an example, pointing out that God repeatedly tells us something wonderful and urges us to stop and think about it. The speaker also highlights that God is not remote or distant, but a present help in our troubles. He encourages listeners to seek God's presence and rest in Him, rather than being easily distracted by worldly noise. The sermon concludes with a reminder that the secret of the Lord is for those who fear Him, and that our eyes should continually be toward the Lord.

Transcript

Good afternoon. I'll ask you to turn again, please, to Romans chapter 8. We'll begin there. As we come to the study of God's Word, there's a principle of Bible study that is absolutely indispensable, a principle that we cannot take for granted, that we cannot live without.

And I'm referring to that great truth, total reliance upon God's Holy Spirit. As we come to this precious book, there are many, many helpful things, all kinds of academic aids. But at the end of the day, we must come as little children, and we must ask the Lord to dawn Christ upon us.

I was thinking in terms of our theme of that marvelous verse in Luke chapter 24. Remember when our Lord appeared on the road to Emmaus, and then later to His disciples in the room? And Luke 24, after He appeared, and verse 45, it says, "...then He opened their mind to understand the Scriptures." I'm sure we're going to hear a lot about spiritual mindedness, but there you have it. He opened their mind that they might understand the Scripture.

When we came in last evening, that last verse in Mark chapter one came to my heart. The last verse in Mark chapter one says, "...they came from every direction to Him." Not to Harvey Cedars. They came from every direction, from every quarter to Him.

That's why we're here, to see the Lord. And so I'm going to ask you to bow with me, please, and we'll commit our time to the Lord. Let's pray.

Our Father, once again, how thankful we are that You have not left us on our own to understand Your precious book, Your heart, Your ways. But You have put the Holy Spirit in our heart who searches the depths of God and reveals the things of our Lord Jesus unto us. We wait upon You now, once again, and we ask You to minister in a living way to our hearts.

Show us the Lord Jesus. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Now, just for clarity, you notice I put my Bible down over here. My eyes are getting worse and worse, you know, and so I have enlarged the text and it's in front of me. I promise you it came out of there.

I'm not setting the Bible aside. We're looking in to that precious Word of God. Well, it is a delight to be with you and to share with you on this great theme.

God worked in my heart early to convince me to arrive here, not so much as a speaker, but as a seeker. And so I'm with you as a seeker. I long to know His heart on this great topic.

I've seen a couple of things, but I know He's going to use His servants to open up His heart to all of us. So let's pray that God would keep us open. I want to begin by giving you some good news.

And the good news is this. God is far more interested that you be spiritually minded than you are. And God is far more interested that I be spiritually minded than I am.

And the reason that's good news is God will not only teach us what it means, but He will engineer circumstances in our lives to bring us into the place where we will learn what it means. You're not on your own to learn what it means to be spiritually minded. God has set Himself to teach us that, and we will learn that.

If you're in Romans 8, please glance again at verse 6. The New American Standard said, The mind set on the flesh is death, the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace. How important is the topic that God guided the brothers into choosing for this year's conference? How important is this idea of spiritual mindedness? I noticed in the brochure, in the program, you had that same verse quoted from the New King James. To be carnally minded is death.

To be spiritually minded is life and peace. Kenneth Wiest, in his expanded translation, words it this way, To have the mind dominated by sinful nature is death, but to have the mind dominated by the Spirit is life and peace. Darby translates it, For the mind of the flesh is death, the mind of the Spirit life and peace.

And so whatever translation you decide to use, I ask the question, how important is this theme? That verse teaches us it's a matter of life and death. That's how important it is. It's a matter of life and death.

There are two possibilities. One means life and one means death. Now those possibilities the Bible expresses in many different ways.

We read in Romans 1 about the reprobate mind. We read in Galatians 2 about the fleshly mind. We read in Timothy 3, 1 Timothy, about the corrupted mind.

Titus 1, the defiled mind. Matthew, the mind set on man's interests. Proverbs and James talks about a double-minded man.

Proverbs talks about a simple-minded man. Isaiah talks about a stubborn-minded man. Romans, the carnally-minded, worldly-minded, otherwise-minded.

Many expressions, but it all ends in death. And just so, we have in Matthew, the mind set on God's interests. And in Colossians, the mind set on things above.

And in the book of Acts, those who were noble-minded. Corinthians, sober-minded. Second Corinthians, like-minded.

Romans 8, spiritually-minded. We read about having the mind of Christ. The renewed mind.

And however you express it, it ends in life. One is death and one is life. Now, I don't know if you considered that when you decided to come this year to the conference.

Why are you going to the conference? Why, it's a matter of life and death. That's why you're here. You might have said, I'm going to the conference because I want to renew the fellowship.

Such sweet fellowship there. God's people are there. The saints are there.

I enjoy hearing the ministry of the Word. I love corporate worship. Maybe a combination of all those things.

But God has this reason in mind. He wants to teach us things about life. Things about death.

And enable us to choose life over death. There's a danger to come to a topic like this in just a technical way. Just a mechanical way.

Become very theological about it. May God deliver us from that. Let me set before your hearts the direction that I believe the Lord has guided me on this great topic.

I'll confess to you, as I began to study this, I realized the poverty in my own heart concerning this topic. I'm excited to be here and I'm open. I can't wait to learn about it.

You say, well, then what are you doing up there? Well, I can't tell you everything, but I can tell you the little I know. And so I want to share just a little bit, and it might sort of set us up for what I'm convinced God is going to give as a banquet through our other brothers. We've got to have a starting point.

God has begun to acquaint me with this starting point. Romans 8, 5 says, the mind on the things of the Spirit. But 8, 6 doesn't say the things of the Spirit.

The very next verse says, your mind on the Spirit, on the person. God tells us through His servant Paul in Colossians, keep seeking the things above. Where Christ is, where He's seated, at the right hand of God.

We're to set our mind on the things above. Let me ask you this. Are heavenly things, things? Are heavenly things, things? Things above.

Romans 15 talks about things pertaining to God. Are things pertaining to God, things? God tells us in Philippians that we're to approve the things that are excellent. Are even the depths of God.

The book of Acts ends with these words, preaching the kingdom of God and teaching those things concerning the Lord Jesus. What are the things concerning the Lord Jesus? We read 1 Corinthians 2, 12, we've received not the Spirit of the world, but the Spirit is who is from God, that we may know the things freely given to us from God. I think there's a possible danger that we get involved with things, heavenly things and spiritual things and invisible things and unshakable things and eternal things, the very things of God, and lose sight of Him.

That's where my heart is. We're going to be spiritually minded, according to Isaiah 26. That will keep them in perfect peace.

Finish it. Whatever else spiritual mindedness is, it's got to include that, would you agree? Whose mind is stayed on Thee. Because if I'm going to be conformed to Him, if I'm going to have my mind renewed, I've got to begin by looking unto Him.

Got to see Him. Then He can change me. Then He can renew me.

Then I can be conformed to His image. Does God give His dear Son over here and things over here? I want us to see Jesus, and I promise if we see Him, you won't miss the things of the Spirit and the heavenly things and the things that are excellent and need to be approved, the things of God, the things concerning the Lord Jesus, the things that are freely given unto us in Christ. I've asked God to give us a foretaste of Ephesians 1, 9 and 10.

He's made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him, with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of times. That is, and here it is, the summing up of all things in Christ, whether they be things in heaven or things on the earth. I want us to look at the truth of spiritual mindedness in terms of what it means to have our minds stayed on Him, and then I think we'll be able from there to move into those other things.

We're going to pass over in my approach to this spiritual mindedness, seeing things from His viewpoint. There's a lot to be learned seeing things as God sees them. I hope you see yourself as God sees you.

The Lord dealt with me recently. I couldn't see Christ in a brother, and God taught me to see that brother in Christ. Oh, I tell you, that makes a difference, to see things as God sees things.

I'm not even going to touch on this, the wonderful truths of Philippians 2, having this mind, this disposition, this self-emptying, this humility, this child-likeness, this giving yourself away. If we see Christ, God can work that in us. But that's not my direction.

My direction is, I want to see Him. I'm not going to miss anything if my eyes are on Him. You familiar with that great hymn, More About Jesus? Well, that's where I'll be.

More about Jesus, more, more about Jesus, more of His saving fullness be, see, more of His love who died for me. Here's one verse in that. More about Jesus, let me learn, more of His holy will discern.

Spirit of God, my teacher be, showing the things of Christ to me. One more verse by way of introduction, and then we'll begin what I want to show you. Psalm 25, 14, and 15 says, The secret of the Lord is for those who fear Him.

He'll make them know His covenant. My eyes are continually toward the Lord. He'll pluck my feet out of the net.

Just that expression, my eyes are continually toward the Lord. I promise you, if your eyes are continually toward the Lord, you'll be spiritually minded. My eyes are continually toward the Lord, and I'll be spiritually minded.

Not sometime, not now and then, not most of the time, not pretty nearly all the time. My eyes are continually toward the Lord. And so here's the little outline of what I'd like to share with you.

I'd like to try to show you a little bit what it means, my eyes are continually toward the Lord in everyday living. That's what I'd like to look at this afternoon. And then a great burden on my heart.

My eyes are continually toward the Lord in the study of Scripture. How to see Jesus in the Bible. That's what we'll look at, God gracing us tomorrow.

How to behold Him in life. How to behold Him in the Bible. Because I know if we start beholding Him, then He can begin to renew our minds and conform us into the image of His adorable Son.

So in order to meditate on that, that's where we are now. I'm going to ask you to open your Bibles, please, to the noisiest Psalm in the Bible. I said that in Rhode Island.

A young couple opened up, well they're not very young, a couple opened up their Bibles to Psalm 150. They said, that's got to be the noisiest Psalm in the Bible because of the trumpets and the piped instruments and all of the singing and dancing and cymbals and all. Psalm 150 is a loud Psalm, but it's not as loud as the Psalm I'm inviting you to turn to.

The noisy, I got that from G. Campbell Morgan. He's the one that called it the noisiest Psalm in the Bible. Maybe you're familiar with it as Luther's Psalm.

You know, the mighty fortress is our God was built on this Psalm. Ein festerberg ist unser Gott. And he just wrote that wonderful Psalm based on this.

He had a close relationship, you know, with Philip Melancthon, his friend. And he was given some time to anxiety. And of course, later on there was a little split.

Always seems to be something like that. But in the early years, they were so close and Luther would say, come Philip, let us sing the 46th Psalm together. And then let the devil do his works.

So let's turn, brothers and sisters, to the 46th Psalm. God is our refuge and strength of very present health and trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea, though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains quake at its swelling pride.

Selah. There's a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy dwelling places of the Most High. God is in the midst of her.

She will not be moved. God will help her when the morning dawns. The nations made an uproar.

The kingdoms tottered. He raised his voice and the earth melted. The Lord of hosts is with us.

The God of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah. Come behold the work of the Lord who has wrought desolations in the earth.

He makes wars to cease to the ends of the earth. He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two. He burns chariots with fire.

Cease striving and know that I am God. I'll be exalted among the nations. I'll be exalted in the earth.

The Lord of hosts is with us. The God of Jacob is our stronghold. Selah.

You notice I read the word Selah in the psalm. When you read the psalms, read that word. It's used seventy-one times in psalms, and then three times in one of the Minor Prophets.

Many divergent views as to what that word means. Some say it means forever. Some say it means the end.

Some say it means stop, look, listen. Some say it means raising a note higher. Literally, the word means to raise the hands.

And some say, well, that means to raise the hands in praise. Possibly, but some think that it's probably raise the hands from the instruments. In other words, in our music, it's a rest.

And you come to the psalm, and there's a rest. And a rest is part of the music. It's written in.

It's measured. There's a beat to the rest. You've got a half rest and a whole rest.

You count it out. And by the way, when God brings a rest into your life, and He sets you aside, that's part of the composition. That's part of the music.

It's measured. It's counted out. Don't be afraid of those rests.

It answers to the double verily in the New Testament, this difference. The double verily is saying, pay attention, I'm about to say something wonderful. The sailor says, pay attention, I just said something wonderful.

You see the difference? The double verily gets you to look forward to something wonderful. The sailor says, now stop and reflect on what you've already heard. And you notice in this wonderful psalm that there are three sailors, because in verses one to three, God says something wonderful.

And He says, now stop and think about that. That is tremendous. And then four to seven, He says something wonderful again.

And then He says, stop and think about that. And then through the end of the psalm, He says it again, and He says, stop and think about it. Let me tell you why G. Campbell Morgan called this the noisiest psalm in the Bible.

Look again at verse two and three, Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains slip into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains quake at its swelling pride. And then glance at verse six, please. The nations made an uproar, kingdoms tottered, he raised his voice, the earth melted.

Those are very noisy things going on in this psalm. The earth is going through changes. Most believe that verse two is a reference to an earthquake.

I've never been in an earthquake. Just for interest, has anyone here been in an earthquake? We have quite a few. Well, we don't have time to give your testimony, but I have.

I've met two brothers that have been in an earthquake. One in 1964, he was up in Anchorage, you know, on that Good Friday, that great earthquake up there, and oh, he was in the middle of it, and what a devastation he described. And then another brother thought he was having a heart attack in California during one of those earthquakes.

But an earthquake, it shakes the foundation. It leaves you stupid and stunned and amazed. Everything begins to shake, buildings and bridges and trees and all that kind of thing.

Let me ask you this, that's just nature's picture. Is it possible to be spiritually minded during an earthquake? I hold that for a moment, because verse two talks about the mountains slipping into the sea. Mountains picture stability and security and strength and support, and now these mountains are just giving way.

They're dissolving. They're crumbling into the sea. It's dramatic.

The sea is ever that emblem of unstable and restless. Psalm 30, David said in his prosperity, Thou, Lord, made my mountain stand strong. But then God hid his face, and what happened to the mountain? He said, I was dismayed.

Let me ask you this question. Is it possible to be spiritually minded in a landslide? I hold that. Add to the violence and commotion of the earthquake, and add to the devastation of the landslide, verse three, the roaring of the sea.

Commentators believe what's being described here is an underwater, under the sea earthquake, which is resulting in a tidal wave. And this tidal wave is coming toward the shore, and the mountains are going, no! I don't want this tidal wave. It's very graphic.

And so the mountains are quaking in fear, because the tidal wave threatens to engulf and inundate and sweep everything away. I'll tell you, those things are awesome in nature--the earthquake, the landslide, the tidal wave. They're more awesome as a life principle.

Ever have an earthquake in your life? A landslide in your life? Some tremendous tidal wave coming, threatening to sweep everything away? Then look at verse six, the nations made an uproar, kingdoms tottered. That's the noise of war. The whole world hears that war.

War's a noisy thing back then. Sounds of horses and chariots and war cries. War's noisy today, with explosions and planes and smart bombs and gunfire and all that kind of thing.

See why it's a noisy sound? Earthquakes, landslides, tidal waves, everything's falling apart. Everything's coming to pieces, and every place you look, there's war. Some have attempted to take this beautiful psalm and tie it into some historical occasion.

They said, David wrote this, and he's talking about the wars he had with Ammon and Moab. Someone else said, no, no, no, no. This is Isaiah.

He's celebrating the victory over Sennacherib and Assyria. Someone says, you don't read it right. This is Jehoshaphat, and this is his great victory that he has.

Well, let me tell you right now, nobody knows who wrote it, and nobody knows what the historical occasion is. It's like the thorn in the flesh, and your God has left it blank so that you can fill it in. The earthquakes, landslides, tidal wave, war on every hand, that's general enough to be able to apply in any situation.

And if we're going to understand this psalm, you've got to see the background of this psalm. Things are caving in, and things are falling apart. Secure things are becoming insecure.

Things are being threatened to be swept away. Brothers and sisters in Christ, do me a favor. Don't give this psalm to David, and don't give it to Isaiah, and don't give it to Jehoshaphat.

It's for you. It's for me. My guess is, it's only a guess, because I haven't been in your shoes.

My guess is you've never seen as much noise in your life as there is in this psalm. I know I have not seen as much noise, heard as much noise in my life as there is in this psalm. Some of you might be in a situation where you say, it's close.

It's close. I've had a lot of noise in my life. This psalm is not a sermon.

I'm giving it like a sermon. It's a psalm. It's a psalm.

Can God give a psalm when everything's shaking, and everything's sliding, and everything's falling apart, and the rest is being threatened by some great calamity that's going to come in and sweep it all away? What's the revelation of God's heart in this psalm? Start in verse 10. Cease striving. Be still.

Know that I'm God. John Calvin thinks this refers to the wicked nations, that they're to be still because God's about to judge them. I have a hard time with that.

I don't know. I don't want to stand up against John Calvin, but the margin in my Bible says, let go. Relax.

I can't imagine God saying to the nations, relax. I'm about to judge you. I think this belongs to the one who's singing the psalm.

Psalm 46.10. What a verse. I like the King James translation. Not the translation necessarily, but I memorize in the King James.

There's just something about it. Be still. Know that I'm God.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, that would be a great verse anywhere in the Bible. That'd be a great verse in Deuteronomy. That'd be a great verse in Isaiah.

That'd be a great verse in the Gospel of John. But God didn't put it there. He put it in the noisiest psalm in the Bible.

Is it possible to be still and know that He's God when everything's being shaken up and everything's falling down and everything's being threatened to be wiped away and every place you turn on every hand, there's no helper. There's only war all around and disunity. It's not only possible.

It's God's provision. It's God's promise. What's the secret of this abiding rest? What's the secret of a panic-free life? Let me get to the marrow of it.

Did you ever notice that when there's some kind of a noise, your head turns in the direction of that noise? If there's a crash, you turn. If there's a siren, what is that? If there's a bell, if there's a scream, we're so easily diverted. We're so easily turning to those things.

And so when there's an earthquake, sometimes we get all involved with our little earthquake or with our little landslide or with our little tidal wave or not getting along with brother and sister and so on. Verse 4, there is a river. The streams make glad the city of God, the holy dwelling place of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her. She will not be moved. God will help her when the morning dawns.

There is a river. I don't know if you're familiar with Brother Austin Spark's book, *Rivers of Living Water*, but he followed that river through the Scriptures. All through the Bible, you have that river, God's answer to barrenness and fruitlessness and thirst.

Psalms 65 says, the stream of God is full of water, full of water. And right from Genesis all the way to when it flows out from under the throne and under the Lamb, we have this wonderful river. And we're not left to guess what it is.

I'm amazed at how many guess it. Some say, well, the river is the church. The river is the grace of God.

The river is the blessing of God. The river is the fullness of the Spirit. I think Jesus settled it in John 8. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture hath said, from His innermost being will flow rivers of living water.

This He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive. I'll tell you what the river is. It's a person.

It's the Lord. Verse 5, God's in the midst of her. A river always there, always at hand, always cheering, always refreshing, always flowing, no matter what happens.

It's Him. According to this psalm, and I'm not telling you I've been here. I just read it and my heart cried out for it.

But according to this psalm, when I'm focused on the Lord, it's irrational to fear or fret. And when you're focused on the Lord, it's irrational to fear or to fret. Verse 2 begins with the word, therefore.

What's the secret of not fearing? Look at verse 1, please. God is our refuge and strength, very present help in trouble. You glance at that verse and I don't want to be irreverent, but I'm going to tear it apart.

Then I'm going to put it back together, one modifier at a time, in order that we might see the heart of the Lord. It begins, God is. Not God gives or God does.

Not telling us what He does. It's who He is. God is our refuge.

When I think of refuge, I always think of the cities of refuge. You know, in the Old Testament, two things got to be true about the cities of refuge. Number one, somebody's chasing you.

And number two, you're scared. Take the principle. I don't know what's chasing you.

Maybe your past, maybe your conscience, maybe some guilt. I don't know what's chasing you. But He presents Himself as a refuge.

God is your refuge. Now, the verse should stop there. I speak as a fool.

That should be enough. God is your refuge. When the earth shakes underneath you and God allows that which is shakable to be shaken, and you learn that God is your refuge, that should be enough.

But you're as weak as I am, and it's not enough. And so God said, all right, I'm your refuge and your strength. Not that He gives strength, He is your strength.

You see, He gives strength when He provides for you. If He provides your financial needs, if He heals your body, if He works out some solution to a problem, if He opens some door, if He blesses your ministry, then it's God giving, God blessing, God giving you strength. But when the bills pile up high and He doesn't provide, and when your body gets worse and worse and He doesn't heal, and when you don't have a solution to the problem, and every door is closed and your ministry falls flat, and you come running helpless to the Lord, and I speak again as a fool, and all you have is Him, and you go on when you can't go on, then He is your strength.

Wow, that should be enough. But it's not. We're weak.

Oh, we are so frail. And so He said, all right, I am your refuge, I'm your strength, and I'm your help. It's one thing to know someone is strong.

Another thing to know He's strong for you. Somebody can have money, have money, but if He's not going to give it to you to meet your need, it doesn't help that He's rich. God says, I'm your help.

I'm strong on your behalf. So when the earthquake comes, and the landslide comes, and the tidal wave comes, and there's war on every side, God says, there's a river. God's in the midst.

I'm your refuge. I'm your strength. I'm your help.

Should be enough. It's not enough. We're so weak.

So He said, all right, I'm your help in trouble. In other words, when all these things happen, when your health is gone, and death is knocking at the door, and all your rotten props give way, and all creature resources are exhausted in the day of trouble, I'm your help. That should be enough.

It's not enough. He says, okay, I'm your present help. I'm your refuge.

I'm your strength. I'm your help. I'm your help in trouble.

I'm your present help in trouble. Heard a story about a child. Tells me how old I'm starting to get to be.

Child comes to his father and says, tell me about the old days, when a person had to get up from the chair and walk all the way to the television to turn it on or to change a channel. They don't have to do that anymore. Those were the old days.

Now they sit there with a button and a remote control, and they do it from a distance. Is God in control, yes or no? Is He in remote control? He's not sitting back just pushing buttons. He's not remote.

You have a God that is a present help. And so you say, that should be enough. It ain't.

You see how He piles on in this first verse? I'm your refuge. Not enough. I'm your refuge in strength.

Not enough. I'm your refuge, your strength, your help. Not enough.

I'm your refuge, your strength, your help in trouble. Not enough. I'm your refuge, your strength, your help, your present help in trouble.

Not enough. He said, all right, very present help. You see what He's doing? What a God that we have.

He's a very present help in the time of trouble. I like verse 5, God will help when the morning dawns. I think one translation says right early.

Another one says at the appointed time. Brothers and sisters, I don't know when it's going to happen, but you're going to face an earthquake. There's going to be some noise in your life.

And that which is stable is going to become unstable and slide into the sea. And something's going to rise up and build up and threaten to sweep everything away. And no matter where you turn, there'll be war on every hand.

You may lose your job. You may lose your health. You may lose your family member.

But you don't have to lose your peace. You don't have to lose your peace. Therefore, see how the therefore comes in? I'm your refuge.

I'm your strength. I'm your help. I'm your help in trouble.

I'm your help, your present help, your very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though these things happen. That's how it fits in.

Look at verse 8. It seems so out of place. Come, behold the works of the Lord, who has wrought desolations on the earth. Put that in the context.

That earthquake that came. Come, behold the works of the Lord, who has wrought desolations on the earth. That landslide didn't just happen.

Don't be afraid to say it. Pull out all the stops. There are no second causes to the Christian.

It's the Lord. He's the one that allowed that earthquake and He allowed that landslide and that tidal wave to come and sweep everything away. It's the Lord.

Say, why would He do that? I'll tell you, we're touching something, life and death. Spiritual mindedness. And you're not going to study yourself into spiritual mindedness.

You're not going to get it that way. Sometime God has to shake you into it. Sometime God has to shake me into it.

You know why God does all these things? Because He knows in the day of the quake, in the day of the slide, in the day of the tidal wave, in the day of war, you're going to be crowded to Christ. You're going to turn to Him. You're going to look to the Lord.

You're going to come to the end of yourself, your wit's end. You're going to look and cry out and say, help. That's the starting point of spiritual mindedness.

That's where it begins, seeing the Lord in life. And once our eyes are on the Lord in life, and then once we're seeing Him in the scripture, then He can begin to work with us, to change us and conform us to His image. This psalm has been called the Christmas psalm because of verse 7 and 11.

Some say some copyist dropped it from verse 3, but it used to be there too. The Lord of hosts is with us. Emmanuel, God with us.

The God of Jacob is our stronghold. Lord of hosts is with us. We read that la, la, la.

You know who the Lord of hosts is? Host is used three ways in the Bible. One time it's talking about the heavens, the host, the heavenly host, all the stars in the galaxy. That's the host.

Another time it's talking about the angels, heavenly host, the unnumbered billions of angels of God. Sometime Israel, the army of Israel is called the host of the Lord. The Lord of hosts, the Lord of heaven and earth and the armies of heaven and earth are with you.

I was amazed when I saw the Lord of hosts is with you, but I got more amazed when I saw the next part. The God of Jacob is your stronghold. That's one of my favorite titles of the Lord in the Old Testament.

Jacob was a conniver. He was a maneuverer. He manipulated.

He was a schemer and a wire puller. He's one, a heel puller, Jacob. You know why I love that title? Because if he's the God of Jacob, he's the God of Ed Miller and he's your God.

He's my God. I'll tell you why that's so precious to me. When I come to share, I am always prepared.

I'm not always ready. I'm hardly ever ready, but I'm always prepared. That wasn't always the case.

Some years ago, I had an opportunity to speak at a missionary conference and I wasn't prepared because I could wing it. They didn't know that much and I figured I'd just wing it. I was sitting on a fancy chair waiting to speak.

I didn't even have a text. I had no verse. I didn't know.

And I was starting to sweat. And I'm saying, Lord, you got to help me. I don't even, if I could think of something, maybe I could get on a roll and say something.

And the missionary, she was up there singing. And I knew when she was done, I was done. And I remember to this day what she was singing.

Is it nothing to you, all you that pass by? And I was praying if he wouldn't give me a text that he'd give her a thousand more verses to that song. Now, it's going to sound like something I made up, but Lillian was there and she's my witness. And I remember God of Jacob.

And I said, Lord, I'm Jacob. You're the God of Jacob. You got to help me.

It's one of those times, you know, you flip the Bible open and dive bomb your index finger down and hope that God's going to meet you. He did, honey. I opened to Isaiah 41, 14.

And it says, I will help you, you worm, Jacob. You see, I can laugh now, too. But that day I wept.

That became my text for that morning. As I confessed my sin, I've never been unprepared again. He's the God of Jacob.

He's your God. He's the Lord of hosts, is with you. So he engineers a shaking in your life and a sliding in your life and threatens.

It's only because he wants you to know that he's your refuge and he's your strength. He doesn't want you to trust other refuge. He doesn't want you to trust other strengths.

He doesn't want you to run to other resources. He's your refuge. He's your strength.

He's your help. He's your help in trouble. He's your present help in trouble.

He's your very present help in trouble. The Lord of hosts is with you. The God of Jacob is your stronghold.

Want to be spiritually minded? I will keep him in perfect peace. Actually, the Hebrew doesn't say perfect peace. It says peace, peace.

When the Hebrew wanted to show the fullness of an idea, they'd repeat the word. I will keep him in peace, peace. What follows peace? Peace.

And what follows peace? Peace. That's why you have from strength to strength. What follows strength? Strength.

And what follows that? Strength. And that's why you have from faith to faith. What follows faith? Faith.

And what follows that? More faith. And that's why you have from glory to glory. What follows glory? Glory.

And what follows that? More glory. From glory to glory to glory to glory and strength to strength. And thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee.

I want you to look one final time at verse 10. And I'm going to show you what two things that it means. Be still.

Be quiet. Relax. Let go.

What it means is be still in your heart. No fear. No fretting.

No anxiety. There is a river. You have the Lord.

He's always there. Look to Him. He engineers those things to drive you to Him.

We need to look to Christ. He's there. He'll be there.

But it also means something else. I was amazed as I did a word study on this be still. Because I thought it meant be still in my heart.

Here's the other meaning. Shut up. That's what it means.

No complaining. No questioning. No arguing.

No repining. No grumbling. No murmuring.

God, again, has a higher interest in you than you do. God has a higher interest in me than I do. He desires more that we know what spiritual mindedness is than we could ever believe.

And He will engineer your life. And He will shake what needs to be shaken. He will dissolve what needs to be dissolved.

He'll sweep away what needs to be swept away. Until, finally, we come to the river. There is a river.

God's in the midst. Until we let go of all of our own resources and turn to Him who is our refuge, is our strength, is our help, is our present help, is our very present help. The Lord of Hosts is with you.

The God of Jacob is your stronghold. Sailor, think about it. Father, we praise you for this psalm.

Not what we think it might mean, but everything you know it means. Will you work that in our hearts so that we can begin to be spiritually minded by focusing our hearts on the Lord Jesus who is all in all and everything and all things summed up in Him. How we praise you for that river that's always there and the grace you give to bring us to that river.

Now, even this weekend, enable us to drink deeply from that river. We ask in the all-prevailing name of our Lord Jesus.

Audio: <https://sermonindex1.b-cdn.net/11/SID11436.mp3>

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/ed-miller/the-revelation-of-christ-in-life/>

Grow in Your Walk with Christ

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

www.sermonindex.net