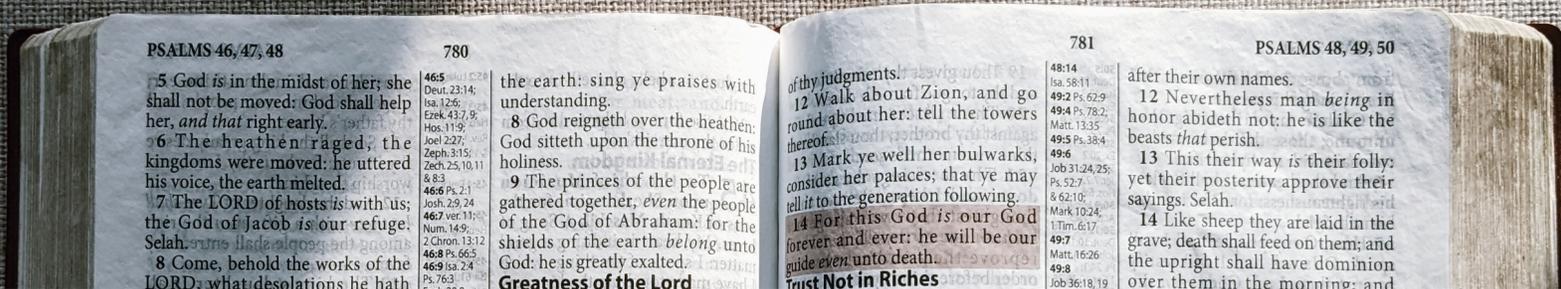


Sermon Weekly Devotions



Sweet Surrender

Day 1: God is present with us in our suffering.

In the midst of pain and loss, it can feel as if we are utterly alone. The darkness can be overwhelming, and the path forward unclear. Yet, we are not abandoned in our deepest valleys. The God who created us and knows us intimately journeys with us through every trial. He does not always remove the hardship, but He promises His unwavering presence within it. [41:14]

And the Lord said, “My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” (Exodus 33:14 ESV)

Reflection: When you recall a recent moment of difficulty or pain, where did you sense God’s presence with you, even in a small or unexpected way?

Day 2: Our God is Yahweh, merciful and gracious.

The personal name of God, Yahweh, reveals His heart toward His people. It is a name spoken with every breath we take, a constant reminder that our life is sustained by Him. This name declares that His fundamental nature is not anger or distance, but compassion and faithful love. Even when we cry out in our pain and confusion, He is slow to anger and abounds in steadfast love for us. [45:11]

The Lord passed before him and proclaimed, “The Lord, the Lord, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.” (Exodus 34:6 ESV)

Reflection: How does understanding God’s character as “merciful and gracious” and “slow to anger” change the way you approach Him in your current circumstances?

Day 3: Our God is El Shaddai, the Almighty One.

Human suffering can make us feel small and powerless, as if the chaos of the world is ultimately in control. The name El Shaddai confronts that feeling with divine truth. It proclaims that God is all-powerful and sovereign over every circumstance. While He may not reveal the 'why' behind our pain, we can trust that His almighty power is at work, not to harm us, but to develop and strengthen us. [[47:02](#)]

When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless." (Genesis 17:1 ESV)

Reflection: What is one situation in your life where you need to consciously shift your trust from your own limited understanding to the sovereign care of Almighty God?

DDay 4: Our scars can speak hope to others' wounds.

The experiences of pain we endure are not wasted in God's economy. He can redeem our deepest hurts and use them for a purpose beyond ourselves. Our personal trials create a unique empathy and credibility when we come alongside others who are suffering in similar ways. Our scars become a testimony that one can walk through the fire and, by God's grace, emerge on the other side. [[40:45](#)]

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4 ESV)

Reflection: Who in your life is currently walking a path where your past experiences of God's comfort could allow you to offer meaningful support and hope?

Day 5: In Christ, our suffering leads to ultimate hope.

The story of our lives does not end in the valley of suffering. Because Jesus Christ was lifted up on the cross and raised from the dead, we have a living hope. This world will bring trouble, but it is not our final destination. Our God is the one who raises up, and He promises that our present sufferings are preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison. [[57:47](#)]

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. (Romans 8:18 ESV)

Reflection: How does the eternal hope we have in Jesus reshape the way you view the temporary struggles you are facing today?