Journal Questions for Thoughtful Reflection and Application

Each week you will have the opportunity to reflect on the spiritual lessons of the Psalms and apply them in concrete ways (prayer and testimony). These questions will build on responsible methods of study that focus on 3 transformative movements: (1) **Recognition**: What is honestly going on in our hearts and lives, (2) **Redirection**: Opening ourselves up to the correction of the Spirit, and (3) **Reorientation**: Choosing the path we will follow as we learn how to build our lives around God-centered principles. Each Journal entry will include a prayer based on the Psalms that either addresses (1) a specific situation in your life, or (2) exercises a deeper intercessory role on behalf of others.

Week 3: Songs of Wisdom that Invite Us to Make Better Choices

A. Short Answers

1. What recent patterns of a godly life do you recognize as shaping you into a person of wisdom? What do you think God is accomplishing through this process?

I believe living thru the testimony of my best friend who died of cancer in 2015, re started my journey to seek the Lord. Llyod was so happy and calm, even as he was dying, knowing he was going to meet Jesus. I wanted to feel as confident as Lloyd felt, as to where I am going when my life ends. The Holy Spirit then thrust multiple people into my life to get me to join ALCC. The intensity of Pastor John Carter's Sermons along with numerous courses I have taken at the Institute, in person and online has truly helped to fill this hunger to learn more of the Bible and what being a Christian means. Like Psalm 1 points out, we have to plant ourselves near the stream so we can continually feed on the water so we can produce the fruits God desires. ALCC and the Institute is my Stream. I was volunteering A LOT before COVID which also allowed for more growth being around Christians with different experiences then me. Hopefully soon these COVID restrictions will end and we can get back to NORMAL. I will always feel the need to keep learning and RE- LEARNING, REINFORCING what I have learned going forward. My hope is my actions and the way I live will touch others the way Lloyd and other's testimonies have touched me.

2. Have you come to recognize patterns of thinking or behavior within you that is foolish or unwise?

I cannot say I am as dedicated a Christian as other Christians I admire. Unfortunately my temper often gets the best of me and does not show a very good Christian example. I have even taken Anger Management classes at the Institute and at my prior workplaces. Recently I get very upset with those who don't agree with what I consider a moral Christian way of life. I do waste considerable time arguing with those who I can't change their minds on Facebook.

3. What areas of your lived life would you like to strive to develop further or correct in accordance with the teaching of the wisdom psalms about God's character and will?

I believe some are more gifted than others in spreading the Word and the reason for Jesus Christ to live and die for us. I was doing synopsis' of Pastor Carter's sermons to help myself and others retain these teachings I would post weekly on Facebook. Unfortunately recent teachings by John have not

been easy digested by myself. I can't sit and watch what is happening in the world and ignore it and say it is beyond my control, saying we are in End Times. We did not ignore the bombing of Pearl Harbor or 9/11. We rose up and destroyed these Satanic Forces. The current destruction by Antifa and BLM has been MORE dollars lost than 9/11. We need to defeat and stop these Satanic forces as well. Once the election is over I am hoping we will see a reduction in the chaos created by the Democrats and Media, but I believe it will intensify at which point it needs to be STOPPED.

The wisdom of knowing what I can change and can't change is difficult. Sitting by and watching the destruction of moral principles in the USA is not something I can do. I will continue to listen to ALCC sermons to gather more wisdom.

B. Prayer (either for yourself or someone else): Write out a prayer that invites God into a concern raised or an area the Spirit is speaking to you about from our topic. Creatively, compassionately, and courageously imagine that **more is possible.** What is that "more" that you are daring to dream for you (or someone else)? Share this with God.

Lord

I watch what is happening in the USA today and say we must stop these Satanic Forces. I do not understand ANYONE who does not agree with doing this, including the Church!!! You have a plan in all of this. Please let me see what is right to do thru your Word and thru others. I hope I can gain the abilities to change other's mindsets to embrace your teachings and save their eternal lives. Especially my own family. Help me to become more of a glowing light in the midst of these Satanic Forces.

Amen