

### **I stand amazed#3**

## **I STAND AMAZED THAT GOD IS MINDFUL OF ME**

The last few weeks...

We have looked at the Holiness of God and the Goodness of God.

Today, I want to focus on...The presence of God

## **I STAND AMAZED THAT GOD IS MINDFUL OF ME**

Today, I want to start with a verse that I mentioned last week when we were talking about the love that God has for us.

Ps. 8:3,4

When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,  
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,  
4 What is man that You are mindful of him,  
And the son of man that You visit him?

David was in awe and wonder that God was mindful of him...that the God of the universe was concerned with mankind...and not only mankind but God is mindful of us individually.

Ps. 115:12

The Lord has been mindful of us; He will bless us;

*Song--THE LORD HAS BEEN MINDFUL OF ME*

*Verse 1: Tho' I, thru the valley of shadow, O'er mountain or troubled sea, And oft in the darkness, have traveled, The Lord has been mindful of me!*

This song was written by Lloyd Sanderson in 1948. Lloyd was working in a denominational church as a fundraiser for mission work. He was paid well and had a great future with many advancements in front of him.

In 1922, he was converted and became a member of the Lord's church. He left his high paying job and became a preacher in the church of Christ. He often wondered if he made the right decision.

After years of being a Christian, he looked back over his life and realized that he hadn't lost anything...but that he had gained everything.

*Verse 3: I'm rich! I am saved! I am happy! I've health and prosperity! I've friends! I have doors ever open! The Lord has been mindful of me!*

Today, I want us to stand amazed at this truth:  
**THE LORD HAS BEEN MINDFUL OF ME**

I stand amazed that...

- God thinks about me
- God cares for me
- God notices me

One of the most amazing truths we find in the Bible is that God desires to be near His people.

I stand amazed that...

### **I. GOD IS WILLING TO BE CLOSE TO ME**

Ps. 145:18

The Lord *is* near to all who call upon Him,  
To all who call upon Him in truth

Ps. 34:18

The Lord *is* near to those who have a broken heart,  
And saves such as have a contrite spirit.

God wants to be close to you!!

As a father wants to be close to his children...so God, our Father wants to be close to us!!

In the OT, we see God wanted to be close to His people...

Ex. 25:8(God told Moses)

And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.

In the NT, God wanted to be close to His people...

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

In eternity, God wants to be close to His people...

Rev. 21:3

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God.

While we wait for our home in heaven, God says,

- He will make His home with us--John 14:23
- If we will open the door, He will come in and dine with us--Rev. 3:20
- Christ will dwell in our hearts through faith--Eph. 3:17

I stand in awe at the fact that God knows my heart, He knows my thoughts, He knows my insecurities and doubts...and yet, His desire is to be close to me and be involved with my life!!

Throughout the journey of your life...God has always been there...watching you and knowing about you and concerned with you.

I attended the funeral of a dear friend, Ms. Betty Stephens. I've known her my entire life. I looked at the faces in the crowd...some my age that I grew up with...but many older Christians that I looked up to. It brought back so many memories of my childhood. I saw Bible class teachers  
I saw friends that encouraged me  
I saw men that taught me to pray and taught me to love God's word and His church

And then I was reminded that not only were these people there and present when I was growing up...not only did they help me and watch me and support me...**but God was there!!**

- God was there when you were born
- God was there on your 1<sup>st</sup> birthday
- God was there in Sunday school class
- God was there when you made the decision to follow Him
- God was there when you graduated high school
- God was there on your wedding day
- God was there when you laid those loved ones to rest
- God will be there through all our ups and downs

Heb. 13:5,6

For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." <sup>6</sup> So we may boldly say:

"The Lord *is* my helper;  
I will not fear.

- God wants us to come into His throne room and talk to Him in prayer

- God wants us to come into His house and worship Him
- God wants us to come into His presence as He speaks to us through His Holy Word
- God wants us to come and live with Him forever!!

I stand in awe and wonder that God wants to be close to me and have a relationship with me!

This leads to the next point...I stand amazed that...

## **II. GOD IS WATCHING OVER ME**

Not only does God desire to be close to us...He also cares for us and wants to provide the things we need and want...God sees our need and knows our desires.

Gen. 16, Hagar was given to Abraham and she was with child.

Sarah became upset at the way Hagar was acting and so she “dealt harshly” with her and Hagar ran away.

The Angel of the Lord came to her and told that she would bear this son and call his name Ishmael. He then told her to go back to Sarah and submit to her.

Hagar said...

Gen. 16:13

Then she called the name of the Lord who spoke to her,  
You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees;

This story shows us that no one is insignificant in the eyes of God!!

Yes, God chose Abraham and Sarah to have a son and through their seed the Messiah would come, all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

But God also cares for the handmaiden!!

God sees and cares for those that the world does not care about and does not notice!

- God sees our lives

- God cares for us when we are distressed and discouraged and troubled

There was a young man and woman in the prime of their lives, about the age of 35. They were both working and raising a family, doing real good in life. The husband worked in the military and the wife worked at a law firm.

One day the wife started to develop headaches. She went to her doctor and he said that she had a disease in which she was losing her vision. He said we might be able to correct it with surgery.

The day came for the surgery and something happened and a few days later she found out that she was totally/permanently blind.

This couple went home, devastated with this tragedy.

Day after day, the wife would sit in the house not moving, doing nothing.

After a few months of grieving, the husband told his wife, I think it's time for you to get back to work. He said, I'll drive you to work and walk you in and then come and pick you up...she agreed.

They did that for several months, things started looking better, more normal.

Then the husband said, I think it's time to start taking the bus to work. He said, I'll ride the bus and hold your hand, I'll walk you in to work and then pick you up on the bus in the afternoon...she agreed.

Several months passed and the husband said, "I think it's time for you to start going to work, riding the bus by yourself, I know you can do it".

The wife didn't want to, but she agreed.

Every day she would walk to the bus alone, with her white stick, get on the bus, ride it downtown, get off and walk into work.

One day as she was getting off the bus, the bus driver stopped her and said, "I envy you"

She said, "What? I'm blind, I'll never be able to see" "How could you envy me?"

He said, "Every day, when you get off my bus there is a man standing on the street corner, he is in some branch of the military and he watches you get off the bus and walk into work...and when you walk by him he stands at attention and salutes you"

I sure wish I had somebody to watch over me like that!

(story adapted from Dr. Kevin Elko)

Our Jesus stands watching over us!

- You might not be able to see him, but he's there watching

- You might not be able to feel him, but he's there protecting
- You might not be able to hear him, but he hears your cry for help

If you are a child of God, you are not alone in this world!

Ps. 121:7,8

The Lord will keep you from all harm—  
 he will watch over your life;  
 the Lord will watch over your coming and going  
 both now and forevermore.

*My Jesus knows when I am Lonely  
 He knows each pain, He sees each tear  
 He understands each lonely heartache  
 He understands because He cares  
 My Jesus knows just what I need  
 Oh yes! He knows just what I need  
 He satisfies and every need supplies  
 Yes, He knows just what I need.*

I Pet. 5:7

casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.

I stand amazed that I God is the God who sees me!

- Nothing in my life is too big that He cannot handle
- Nothing is too small that He does not notice and care about

### **III. GOD IS WORKING FOR ME**

Rom. 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose.

- Many times we can't see it
- Many times we don't understand it
- Sometimes we may even doubt it

But I stand amazed at the thought that God is working for me and in me and through me!

God is not only working everything together for my good...He is also making me and shaping me to the image of His son.

v.29

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be* conformed to the image of His Son,

God takes the good, the bad and the ugly and He weaves it all together into a beautiful tapestry.

- Sometimes God opens a door
- Sometimes God closes a door
- Sometimes God says yes, no, wait a while
- Sometimes God works through blessings
- Sometimes God works through trials

I am but clay in the potter's hands...and I want Him to continue to work and shape me into what He wants me to be.

Have thine own way, Lord!

Have thine own way!

Thou art the potter,

I am the clay.

Mold me and make me

after thy will,

while I am waiting,

yielded and still.

I stand amazed that...

- God is willing to be close to me
- God is watching over me

- God is working for me

I stand in awe and wonder that **GOD HAD BEEN MINDFUL OF ME!**