

Reflecting on and Making Known What God Has Done

Thesis: Let's reflect on the Lord's wonderful acts and make known what he has done and will do for us.

Text: Psalm 105:1-11; Psalm 145:1-13

Admin:

1. Thank everyone for a great day of servant evangelism at Walmart. We wrapped a bunch of gifts, shared the love of God with many people, and prayed for several people. Thank Cheryl Moses and Joshua Rushing who helped coordinate a lot of the day. Thank everyone who volunteered and served.

Sermon:

In this message, I want us to reflect on what God has been doing, is doing, and is going to do in us as a congregation. I want us to reflect on his wonderful acts and make known what he has done and will do for us.

Let's read Psalm 145:1-13.

Now, turn to Psalm 105:1-6.

The discipline of reflection is an important spiritual practice. Reflection is taking time for serious thought or consideration; contemplation, deliberation, pondering, meditation, musing. Reflection as a spiritual practice helps you to grow in awareness and the ability to pay attention. And, it is fuel for your prayer life.

Reflecting helps me to learn, to process, and to discover. John Maxwell says that "reflective thinking turns experience into insight."

"The spiritual life starts with awareness. Limited awareness equates to a shallow spiritual life. No one can ever be more aware of the self-transcendent than they are aware of things going on within and around them. The spiritual journey starts, therefore, with awakening—and with being prepared to awake again and again as we realize that we have once again drifted into sleep" (David Benner, *Soulful Spirituality*, p. 96).

Growing in awareness means at least "that you will learn to recognize your 'ways of being' and to hear God's loving voice" (Faithwalking 201, p. 24).

So, let's reflect on what God has been doing, is doing, and is going to do in us as a congregation. I want us to reflect on his wonderful acts and make known what he has done and will do for us.

I want to organize my sharing around four words: Celebrating, Confirmations, Challenges, and Calling.

Celebrating: giving thanks for what God has been doing, is doing, and will do

1. Expectant faith:

- a. The Lord spoke to us at the beginning of the year. On January 7, I shared that the Lord wants us to have a faith that is expectant, anticipatory, and confident in him.
 - i. First, expectation is an expression of faith in God. The Lord whom we seek has the power to create something out of nothing. He speaks and he keeps his word.
 - ii. Second, expectation involves our faithfulness to God. Expectation carries with it an awareness of our responsibility to respond to what the Lord is doing and to partner with the Lord.
- b. This year, the Lord caused our faith not to fail. He has brought us this far and will not fail us nor will our God fail to do what he said he would do.
- c. I have grown in my expectation this year. How about you?

2. Financial provision: The Lord has provided miraculously.

- a. And, you have given faithfully and generously this year.
- b. Again, I want to say a "thank you" to those who have given sacrificially and extravagantly this year, giving above your regular tithes and offerings.
- c. On our current pace, we will end the year with the needed cash balance to fund our faith budget for 2019.
- d. I am so grateful that the Lord continues to send us partners and provision from outside of Calvary to sow into what we are doing here.
- e. Regarding the Myanmar Mission Trip: I am grateful that we have received half of the conference fees needed for our trip: \$7,000 of \$14,000 that is needed.
- f. Thank the Lord for his miracle provision in 2018 and for your faithfulness in giving.
- g. As we close the year, I want to challenge us to finish well financially. May each of us give our tithes and offerings as an expression of faith in God, of good stewardship of what the Lord has put in our hands, and of joyful obedience to the ways of the kingdom of God. Let's bring all of the Lord's tithes and offerings into his storehouse.

3. Support and encouragement.

- a. Thank you for your support, encouragement, prayers, partnership, and friendship for me personally.
- b. I know that I am doing what I am called and gifted to do.
- c. And, I feel your love and support. I am so grateful.
- d. Thank you for loving me well.

4. **Encounters:** God is positioning us and getting us ready for new and deeper encounters with him.
 - a. I want to share some encounters that I have had recently with the Lord.
 - b. Becky Gressett, our Children's Pastor, recently shared at Staff Meeting some of the testimonies of how God is speaking to our children and moving in their lives. It was very encouraging.
 - c. I am encouraged by the testimonies of how others in our body are having encounters with the Lord, like in the Generations Set, in the marketplace, and in other places.
5. **Direction:** I am so grateful that our God is a speaking God.
 - a. God is speaking to us for 2019 and we are seeking to respond to the Lord and to align with what he is saying.
 - b. We are seeking to live into what it means to be a prophetic and apostolic church.
 - i. The Lord is currently moving in restoring and maturing the apostolic and prophetic leadership and ministry to his church. We want to respond to this move by hosting two conferences this year-- one focusing on the apostolic and one on the prophetic.
 - ii. On the weekend of March 29 – 31, Apostle Mosy Madugba will teach us about the apostolic and minister to us out of his anointed gifting and calling. You will remember that Apostle Mosy gave us the word this past summer that led to our *Seven Days of Worship, Prayer, and Warfare*. On Friday night, March 29, the focus of the meeting will be on youth, young adults, and those who work with youth. Again, we want to create opportunities for them to encounter God. The conference on Saturday, March 30, is open to everyone. On Sunday morning, March 31, Apostle Mosy will minister in our worship service and then to our ministry leaders on Sunday evening.
 - iii. In the fall, Pastor Steve and other prophetic people will share at a conference on the prophetic.
 - c. We are seeking to get into action around some prophetic words the Lord has given to us through Pastor Steve. On January 20, you will hear about one way that we are responding to the Lord (*The More of God*).
 - d. **Here is another change that we are making to align with what the Lord is saying.**
 - i. **Beginning on January 6, we will meet in the Prayer Room for our 10:00am Sunday Worship Services.**
 - ii. We believe that the Lord wants us to bring the coals of our lives together in a more intimate setting. As with a fire, when you bring the coals together, the heat grows hotter and the fire increases. Gathering in the Prayer Room for our Worship Services will create more synergy, connectivity, and energy. We believe that meeting in the Prayer Room will give us a chance to connect with the Lord and each other more deeply.
6. **Impact and influence:**

- a. I praise the Lord for what we are doing to make a difference, to impact lives for the Lord, and to use our influence for the sake of the kingdom of God.
 - b. **Missionaries: The Lord has identified and raised up people to go intentionally from our midst through the years both locally and globally.** Here is a current list of some of those people:
 - i. Eric and Wendy Eldridge working with Beyond Missions.
 - ii. Joseph Jordana, YWAM London
 - iii. Ana, working among refugees in Europe
 - iv. Chase and Megan, working among refugees in restricted access countries
 - v. Daniel and Marlene DeJesus, working in the prisons locally and the Philippines internationally
 - vi. Angela Petry and Olivia Buckles, and many others, are serving at the International House of Prayer in Kansas City
 - vii. Gene and Rene Haub, Family Life Ministries
 - viii. Kathy Vosburg Miller, CrossWalk Center, Houston's hopeful reentry hub
 - ix. Hairgrove Partnership Team
 - x. Prison Ministry Team
 - xi. Missions Teams going to nations like Latvia and Myanmar
 - c. **Some of the ministries with whom we partner to multiply our impact and influence:**
 - i. [Care Net Pregnancy Assistance Center](#)
 - ii. [CrossWalk Center](#)
 - iii. [Cy-Hope](#)
 - iv. [Faithwalking](#)
 - v. [Hope Disaster Recovery](#)
 - vi. [India Gospel Outreach](#)
 - vii. [Somebody Cares](#)
 - d. **Testimonies:**
 - i. We receive stories from people near and far of how God has used us through the years to change lives and to set the direction of people and ministries.
 - ii. The Lord has used us to introduce people to the kingdom of God, to the power of the Holy Spirit, to intimacy with God, to the prophetic, to prayer, to community transformation, etc.
 - iii. **Here is an amazing testimony of impact and influence.** We have more than 100 people participating on Wednesday nights at Calvary in our Equipping Classes, Kids Club, Youth Ministry, and other activities. That is amazing.
7. **Growing in our capacity to express love:**
- a. I celebrate the way you care for one another, love one another, support one another, pastor one another, encourage one another, and bear one another's burdens.
 - b. You are so inspiring to me.

8. Dealing with transition:

- a. I celebrate the way we went through transition this year and still kept our eyes on the Lord.
- b. Thank you for choosing to stay connected with one another in the midst of transition, rather than disconnecting, blaming, or criticizing.

Confirmations

I am so grateful for how the Lord confirms to us what is he is saying and doing.

1. Transition:

- a. We entered into transition even before some other ministries.
- b. It is encouraging to see a common thread in the body of Christ, which confirms the Lord is speaking to us.
 - i. International House of Prayer in Kansas City: The Lord has called them to a reset for their Onething 2018 Conference and going forward.
 - ii. Morningstar Ministries: I read recently where Rick Joyner's ministry is also looking at a reset of some ministries for 2019.
 - iii. It is interesting that other ministries and churches are hearing the Lord call a "reset" during this season. **The Lord seems to be positioning his people strategically for encounter with himself and for preparation for what lies ahead on the prophetic horizon.**

2. Shifts:

- a. As I mentioned, we are hearing of ministries and leaders who are making shifts.
- b. Interestingly, we have already made some major shifts.
 - i. We made a shift in 2017 to get Pastor Steve into what he is called to do in this hour and to get Calvary into position for what we are called to do.
 - ii. We restructured in 2018 and made our reset in our staffing to fit into our budget.

Challenges

In the midst of all that God has done, is doing, and will do, we inevitably face challenges. That is why the Lord has told us over and over: *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).*

Here are some ways that we are praying into our challenges for the coming year.

1. Praying for double restitution from Zechariah 9:11-12.

- a. *As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you, I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit. 12 Return to your fortress, O prisoners*

of hope; even now I announce that I will restore twice as much to you (Zechariah 9:11-12).

- b. On Monday, 11'12'18, Jay Kelley received this verse and prophesied over Calvary: We prophecy 2019 as the year of double restoration of all that God has done and all that God has promised, in Jesus' name. This is the word of Grace.
2. **Praying for the Lord to make the thief restore 7-fold what he has stolen from us.**
 - a. *You can almost excuse a thief if he steals to feed his own family. 31 But if he's caught, he still has to pay back what he stole sevenfold; his punishment and fine will cost him greatly (Proverbs 6:30-31, Passion Translation).*
 - b. We are asking the Lord to make the enemy repay 7 times whatever he has stolen from us.
3. **Praying for the harvest to come in (Luke 4:35) and for the bread we have cast upon the water to come back to us according to God's word (Ecclesiastes 11:1).**
 - a. *Cast your bread upon the waters, for after many days you will find it again (Ecclesiastes 11:1).*
 - b. This prophetic word was given to me by Doug Stringer in September 2018: It is time for us to reap what we have done for the kingdom of God locally and globally.
4. **Praying for strength to fight and not to give up.**
 - a. *Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"? 28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. 29 He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 30 Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint (Isaiah 40:27-31).*
 - b. *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up (Galatians 6:9).*
5. **Praying for wisdom, energy, and grace to deal with the workload upon us, since our staff has been restructured.**
6. **Praying for victory and overcoming anointing to possess our inheritance, to defeat our adversaries, to overcome and triumph in the Lord.**
7. **Praying for encounters with God, especially for our children, youth, and young adults (Matthew 3:11; Luke 9:13; Acts 1:8).**

Calling

1. Our calling from the Lord is sure.
2. Our calling to possess our promised land-- the promises, purposes, plans, and prophetic words of the Lord-- is sure.
3. Our calling to impact nations is sure.

4. Our calling to have influence and impact is sure and expanding.
 - a. We recently celebrated the door the Lord is opening for Pastor Steve with the Police and Clergy Alliance (PACA).
 - b. I have been serving on 2 boards going through major transition: Union Baptist Association and Faithwalking, even as Calvary was going through major transition. God has raised us up and has called us for such a time as this.
5. Our calling to experience and encounter the presence of the Lord is sure and definite.

Application

1. Let's take time in this Christmas season to reflect on and to celebrate what God has been doing, is doing, and is going to do in us as a congregation.
2. Let's reflect on his wonderful acts and make known what he has done and will do for us.
3. Let's be faithful to finish the year well financially. May each of us give our tithes and offerings as an expression of faith in God, of good stewardship of what the Lord has put in our hands, and of joyful obedience to the ways of the kingdom of God.
4. Let's pray and rise up to the challenges before us. Remember what the Lord has told us over and over again: *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).*