

Hello everyone! And welcome to our Wednesday Word devotion for today, Wednesday, July 29, 2020. Thank you so much for tuning in, and taking this time out of your day to focus on God and focus on your faith.

I wanted to note today that the Wednesday Word devotions may look a little different moving forward. We've been following a format that's pretty similar for the last few months, and with summer coming to a close (can you believe that?!) and the program year starting up again, it seemed like a good idea to try some new things out and see how they go.

So for today, I'm going to lead us in two spiritual practices that are rooted solely in the Word. I'm going to read a beautiful psalm, and lead us in a time of prayer. This video will be shorter than previous devotions, but I hope that the time we spend here today will fill your cup, and you can always come back and watch again. Also, if you'd like to come back to the prayer that we will pray together today, feel free to check out our website - [mtzionhudson.com](http://mtzionhudson.com) . The full transcript of each devotion video is available there, so it makes it that much easier to come back to this time of scripture and prayer.

So our Psalm for today is Psalm 145 - a praise psalm, written by King David.

- 1 I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.
- 2 Every day I will bless you,  
and praise your name forever and ever.
- 3 Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
his greatness is unsearchable.
- 4 One generation shall laud your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.
- 5 On the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
- 6 The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,  
and I will declare your greatness.
- 7 They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,  
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
- 8 The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- 9 The Lord is good to all,  
and his compassion is over all that he has made.
- 10 All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,  
and all your faithful shall bless you.
- 11 They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,

and tell of your power,  
12 to make known to all people your mighty deeds,  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.  
13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The Lord is faithful in all his words,  
and gracious in all his deeds.  
14 The Lord upholds all who are falling,  
and raises up all who are bowed down.  
15 The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food in due season.  
16 You open your hand,  
satisfying the desire of every living thing.  
17 The Lord is just in all his ways,  
and kind in all his doings.  
18 The Lord is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.  
19 He fulfills the desire of all who fear him;  
he also hears their cry, and saves them.  
20 The Lord watches over all who love him,  
but all the wicked he will destroy.

21 My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord,  
and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.

The word of the Lord.

And now dear friends, please join me in a word of prayer:

*Lord God, we come to you today with both weary hearts and with gratitude. Lord, we are weary from all the changes and newness and weirdness of this time, of this season of the COVID-19 pandemic. Though we praise you and give you thanks for your assured presence, it can be hard to always come up with the praise words we so often hear, like the ones King David wrote in his psalms. Help us to be comforted by your Word, by the ways you are at work in the world, and comfort us with these words of praise, especially in these times when we need them most. We pray for all people who are working in healthcare, who are researching cures and vaccines, who are processing tests and treatments, who are working to keep our essential services and structures open. Lord shelter them with your holy protection and give them strength in these long days ahead.*

*God we pray for all people who are involved in the upcoming school year. We pray for teachers, staff, administration, and students in all our schools. We lift up their anxieties and concerns and grief and frustration to you, O Lord. We pray for all people having to make tough decisions*

*amidst this global pandemic. Your shoulders carry the burdens of our world, God, and we give you thanks that no burden is too big or heavy for you to carry. We take comfort knowing that we can lift our burdens, our struggles, our hurting and stress and frustrations to you O Lord, and that in you we find rest. In you all things are made new. Help us all to make the best decisions we can with what we have, O God, and give your holy, healing power to all who are struggling. May your Holy Spirit of life guide us in this challenging chapter, and may all your children feel loved, supported, and comforted as we move towards this new academic year.*

*Lord Jesus, the healer of our every ill, we pray for all who are grieving and who are dealing with illnesses, in themselves or in their loved ones. We find hope in the promises of the resurrection, that death does not have the final word, but that you give us eternal life. We pray for healing in our bodies, minds, and spirits. May your Holy Spirit enfold us, like a mother hen to her chicks, as we lean on you and your miraculous, healing works in our world. May your gift of love made human in Christ Jesus give us strength and comfort in our trying times.*

*Lord God, we lift these and all the prayers of our hearts and minds to you. We give you thanks for your steadfast love, and we will bless your holy name, forever and ever. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

Thank you so much again for tuning in! If you like this format of the Wednesday Word, you have a topic you'd like me to cover in an upcoming devotion, or you have a prayer request you'd like me to include in future devotions or worship service, please feel free to mention it in the comments on this video, or you can email me at any time at [pastor@mtzionhudson.com](mailto:pastor@mtzionhudson.com)

Go in peace dear friends, have a beautiful day. Amen.