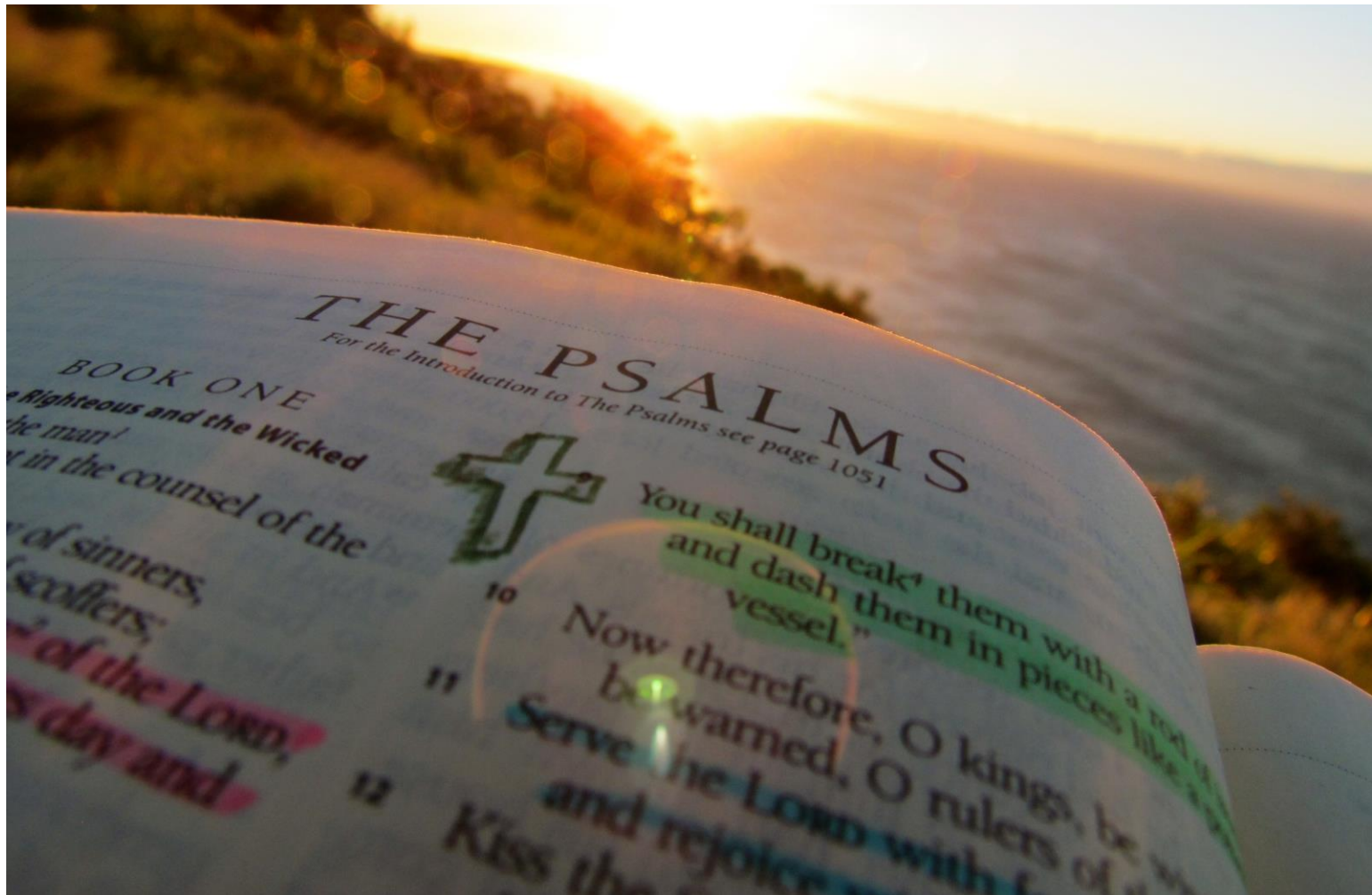


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Keeping First Things First



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- A passage that helps center our faith: Mark 12:28-34

Mark 12:28-34

²⁸ One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, “What commandment is the foremost of all?”

**All Scriptures from 1995 New American Standard Version*

Mark 12:28-34

²⁹ Jesus answered, “The foremost is,
‘HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE
LORD;

³⁰ AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD
WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR
SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH
ALL YOUR STRENGTH.’

Mark 12:28-34

³¹ The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:28-34

³² The scribe said to Him, “Right, Teacher; You have truly stated that HE IS ONE, AND THERE IS NO ONE ELSE BESIDES HIM;

³³ AND TO LOVE HIM WITH ALL THE HEART AND WITH ALL THE UNDERSTANDING AND WITH ALL THE STRENGTH, AND TO LOVE ONE’S NEIGHBOR AS HIMSELF, is much more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

Mark 12:28-34

³⁴ When Jesus saw that he had answered intelligently, He said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” After that, no one would venture to ask Him any more questions.

Matthew 22:40

⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 22:40

⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

**New King James Version*

Keeping First Things First



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- Matthew's account says everything else "hangs" from those two.



Keeping First Things First



➤ But sometimes we ask,
“How can I develop that?”

A Valuable Resource: Psalms

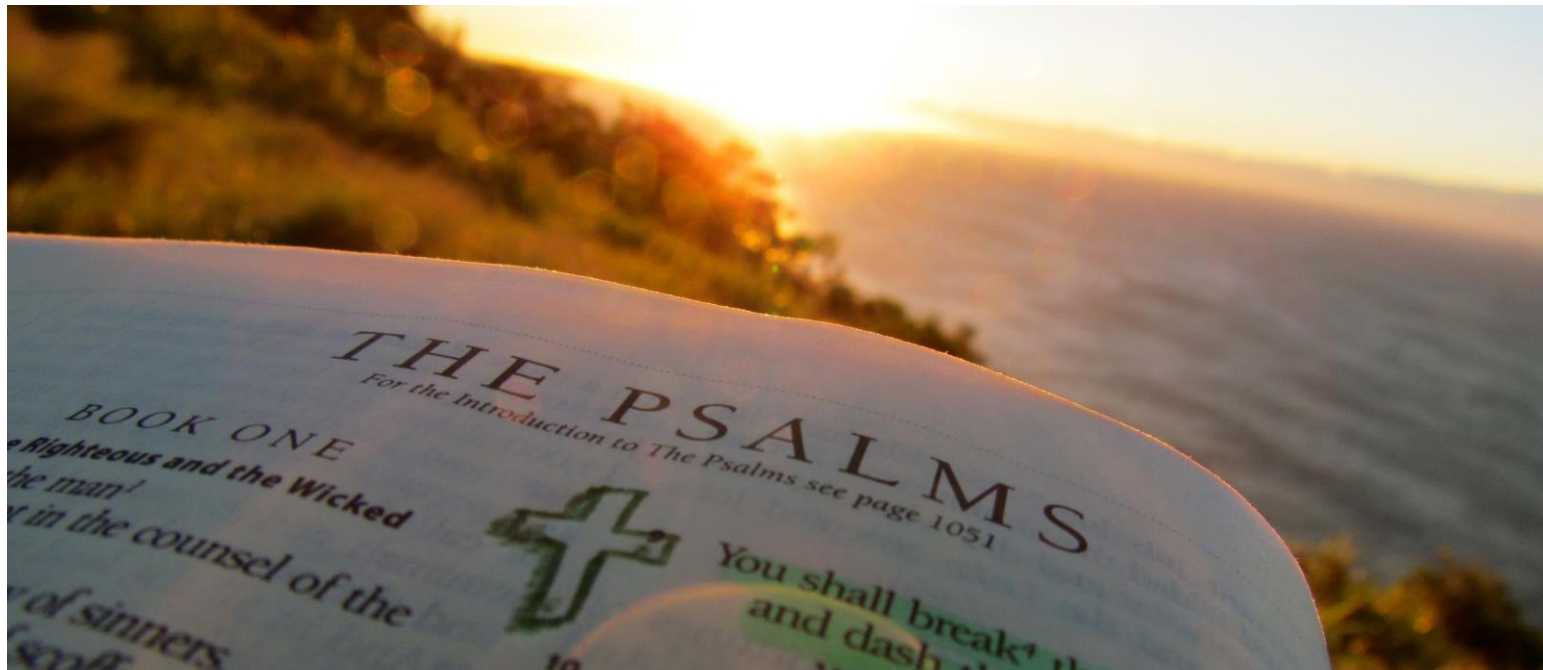


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- The Psalms give us examples and words that help us grow in this area.

➤ Passages:



Psalms 63:1-5

¹ O God, You are my God; I shall seek
You earnestly;
My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns
for You,
In a dry and weary land where there is
no water.

² Thus I have seen You in the sanctuary,
To see Your power and Your glory.

Psalms 63:1-5

³ Because Your lovingkindness is better than life,

My lips will praise You.

⁴ So I will bless You as long as I live;
I will lift up my hands in Your name.

Psalms 63:1-5

⁵ My soul is satisfied as with marrow
and fatness,
And my mouth offers praises with
joyful lips.

➤ Some themes:



God's love for me

Psalms 56:8-9

⁸ You have taken account of my wanderings;

Put my tears in Your bottle.

Are they not in Your book?

⁹ Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call;

This I know, that God is for me.

➤ Some themes:



Express love to God

Psalms 42:1-2

¹ As the deer pants for the water
brooks,

So my soul pants for You, O God.

² My soul thirsts for God, for the living
God;

When shall I come and appear before
God?

Psalms 18:1-3

¹ “I love You, O LORD, my strength.”

Psalms 18:1-3

² The LORD is my rock and my fortress
and my deliverer,

My God, my rock, in whom I take
refuge;

My shield and the horn of my
salvation, my stronghold.

³ I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to
be praised,

And I am saved from my enemies.

➤ Some themes:



Remembering God's help

Psalms 30:1-5

¹ I will extol You, O LORD, for You
have lifted me up,
And have not let my enemies rejoice
over me.

² O LORD my God,
I cried to You for help, and You healed
me.

Psalms 30:1-5

³ O LORD, You have brought up my soul
from Sheol;
You have kept me alive, that I would
not go down to the pit.

⁴ Sing praise to the LORD, you His godly
ones,
And give thanks to His holy name.

Psalms 30:1-5

⁵ For His anger is but for a moment,
His favor is for a lifetime;
Weeping may last for the night,
But a shout of joy *comes* in the
morning.

Psalms 30:10-11

¹⁰ “Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me;
O LORD, be my helper.”

¹¹ You have turned for me my mourning
into dancing;
You have loosed my sackcloth and
girded me with gladness,

➤ Some themes:



Joy of being with God

Psalms 27:4

⁴ One thing I have asked from the LORD,
that I shall seek:

That I may dwell in the house of
the LORD all the days of my life,
To behold the beauty of the LORD
And to meditate in His temple.

Psalms 26:8

⁸ O LORD, I love the habitation of Your
house
And the place where Your glory dwells.

Psalms 16:11

¹¹ You will make known to me the path of life;

In Your presence is fullness of joy;

In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.

Final Reminders



Heart

Image from: www.lightstock.com

- The more we work on our heart, the more real our faith becomes.

Final Reminders



Heart

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➤ May we truly say: God will have all
of _____.