

Perspective

Father's Day

Summation of Last Week's Sermon Prioritize our time alone with Jesus

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. 24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

John 15:5 (ESV) 5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

God promises those who follow Him....spiritual fruit. The roots we develop...determine the juiciness of our fruit No one can develop spiritual fruit for you As we spend time with Jesus...His Spirit flows through us As we become rooted in Him...His fruit is manifested in us.

So obviously it is important If we want lives full of love, joy, peace, patience...and the others. We must decide to enter the Sanctuary...that quiet place....where we are alone... Surrendered and submitted to Jesus. As we process with Jesus.... Something supernatural begins to happen

Today we are going to look at the most important change That happens to us in the Sanctuary. Through the images left to us by a Psalmist We are going to see what is perhaps the greatest benefit Of being alone with Jesus.

In fact, this one thing.....changes everything in our lives It is the secret...the magic bullet..if you will To allow you to not only get through the circumstances in your life But to thrive in them.

Last week we spoke of a tree that has deep roots And can thus weather a drought and not only survive...but continue to produce fruit.

This week....that there is something...only found in the Sanctuary....in the process of what Jesus called abiding. To be alone, fully focused and surrendered. Jesus promises us that abiding will not only allow us to survive all the circumstances in our lives But in the midst of chaos...challenges...and crisis... We can rise above those circumstances and experience supernatural love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, Faithfulness, gentleness and self control

In fact when you see someone...facing difficult challenges... and demonstrating these characteristics I can guarantee you...the have been alone with Jesus. and the first thing He changed..changed them. And He is waiting to do the same for us...

And the only place we can receive it Is surrendered...to Jesus... Alone...in the quiet place. What does Jesus change that is so powerful? Let's discover it together.

Letter home from a girl at college

Dear Mother and Dad: Since I left for college I have been remiss in emailing you, I have been too busy for facebook, and my cell phone keypad will not text anymore. So I thought writing a letter would be best. I will bring you up-to-date now, but before you read on, please sit down.

Well, then, I am getting along pretty well now. The skull fracture and the concussion I got when I jumped out the window of my apartment when it caught on fire shortly after my arrival here is pretty well healed now. I only spent two weeks in the hospital and now I can see almost normally and only get those sick headaches once a day.

Fortunately, the fire in the apartment, and my jump, was witnessed by an attendant at the gas station near my place, and he was the one who called the fire department and the ambulance.

He also visited me in the hospital and since I had nowhere to live because of the burnt-out apartment, he was kind enough to invite me to share his apartment with him. It's really a basement room, but it's kind of cute.

He is a cool guy and we have fallen deeply in love and are planning to get married. He gave me a ring but we had to pawn it to buy food. His job at the gas station didn't last...they actually do drug testing there. We haven't set the exact date of our marriage yet, but it will be before my pregnancy begins to show.

Yes, Mother and Dad, I am pregnant. I know how much you are looking forward to being grandparents and I know you will welcome the babies....oh yes they thought there were twins....turns out triplets! Instant Family! Can you believe it? All of this adult stuff and I am not even 19 yet. I am so mature.

The reason for the delay in our marriage is that my boyfriend has a minor infection which prevents us from passing our premarital blood tests and I carelessly caught it from him. Turns out my pregnancy is what made the doctors test me. Fortunate Right?

Now that I have brought you up to date, I want to tell you that there was no apartment fire, I did not have a concussion or skull fracture, I was not in the hospital, There is no gas attendant guy, I am not starving, I am not pregnant, No triplets, I am not engaged, and I am not infected.

However, I am getting a "D" in American history, and an "F" in chemistry and I want you to see those grades in their proper perspective.

The first thing that changes when we are alone with Jesus Is our perspective.... Changing our perspective...changes everything about us.

We all see our lives through lenses....all meaning comes from perspective Everything is framed by context. In order to understand the events of our lives...we have to have the right context Perspective is the combination of... What you are looking at.... And where you are looking from...

It is so easy for us to get out of touch with what is real. When we lose our perspective of reality We can say and do some pretty crazy things

We need to be very aware of our perspective. We often don't understand what is going on around us We get frustrated...things don't make sense to us. We deceive ourselves to believe that we know all we need to know.

You don't know...what you don't know. You do not know...what you do not know. You and I have a limited perspective.

It is like you are stuck in traffic. Years ago..our daughter was driving to her home in Nashville on Christmas Eve. The freeway just 30 miles from Nashville was completely blocked for hours. No one was moving....there was no where to go. From her perspective...all she could see were cars... Full of frustrated people....with full bladders, empty stomachs and diminishing gas tanks.

Have you been in those kinds of traffic jams? There is absolutely nothing you can do....the situation is not going to change. You can honk your horn....an many do.... You can get out of your car....walk to the median.... And look impatient. You might even try to drive on the median.... If that is you...please don't tell me.

The longer you are in that situation...with your limited perspective.... The more frustrated and angry you can become.

Kylie did what many of us would do..... We look at our situation....and we realize... That we don't know...what we don't know. We need a new perspective... We need someone who knows more than we do... To process our situation with.... And to help us gain a better perspective...

So she called me.... And after a few moments online.... I could help her see....that there likely had been a horrible accident. The freeway was closed because of the debris and emergency vehicles We were able to thank God that she had not been just a few moments ahead. There were people we needed to pray for on this Christmas Eve.

We didn't know it at the time but this was the same night the guy blew up an RV in downtown Nashville....just steps from where Kylie used to manage a restaurant.

We were able to count her blessings... She had food and her gas tank was full He phone for once was fully charged... And she was not at this moment in a helicopter On her way to a trauma center. I was able to help her gain a new perspective.

Notice that in this case and many others... The situation...the problem...doesn't change.... But once we gain additional information.... Once we know what we did not know... Things change because our perspective changes.

We are going to look today at a Psalm It is a psalm written by Asaph (A- SEF) He was a worship leader in the temple He was a man of God....who wrote 12 Psalms. But he also struggled with perspective.

But Asaph (A-SEF) struggles at times... Understanding what is going on around him He looks at the world....then he looks at God.... And there seems to be a disconnect. From Asaph's perspective...what is going on in the world... Makes no sense.

We are going to be in Psalm 73 if you want to head that way What I love about this Psalm is that Asaph is honest... He serves in the Temple but he doesn't candy coat his feelings. He goes so far...to say to God...that he even envied the wicked.

That he allowed himself to want what they want... And wished he could have it.... In fact he wanted it so bad....he was ready to walk away from the temple To walk away from God. His perspective was skewed

Let's look at this Psalm because it is going to teach us... A critical step towards allowing Jesus to produce Juicy spiritual fruit in our lives

Psalm 73:title-3 (ESV) A Psalm of Asaph. 1 Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. 2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped. 3 For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

He starts with what he knows.. I know God is good to us...I know that in my head... I know that God can do nothing but good for His children. I know that He promises that everything He does Is good for us....I know in my soul that God is good. Then he gets very honest...

But as for me...I almost blew it. I almost lost my foothold...my desire to follow God. I almost turned away from Him...away from the temple...away from the worship songs I got so frustrated by what I was seeing...that I almost walked away...

Why? I was envious.. I looked around me and I saw arrogant wicked people Living lives against the purposes of God..... Thumbing their noses at God....AND PROSPERING! They were doing everything wrong...and yet they were getting rich...

From my perspective it was paying off for them... Worse the word for prosperity here is Shalom.. Which was not limited to money.... Shalom means.."its all good" everything is very good. The root of the word means "completion" or "fulfillment" It has a broad holistic meaning... peace...wholeness....harmony...health

Have you been there? I have. Asaph is asking what many of us have asked....

If God is supposed to bless believers, why do we struggle with health, finances, and relational turmoil while the unbelievers around us seem to enjoy prosperity? Or, we could ask it this way, "Why are the wicked successful while the righteous suffer?"

Can you feel the emotion of the Esaph? I know God is good..but from my view...my perspective... These wicked people...seem to have it all.... I am struggling and they are prospering....who is really blessed here?

This following God stuff doesn't seem to be paying off for me... Yet I look at them...and all I see isShalom. Esaph says...I almost ditched my faith because of that... He continues...

Psalm 73:4–11 (ESV) 4 For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek. 5 They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind. 6 Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment. 7 Their eyes swell out through fatness; their hearts overflow with follies. 8 They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression. 9 They set their mouths against the heavens, and their tongue struts through the earth. 10 Therefore his people turn back to them, and find no fault in them. 11 And they say, "How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?"

He says...Look God at these wicked people.. Asaph notes.... The peace of the wicked... The prosperity of the wicked The pride of the wicked They don't seem to get sick... It looks like they are protected somehow.. The live life in the fast lane everything all the time But they never crash

The scoff and set their voices against the heavens...against God.. They mock God... Is their knowledge in the most High God? Because they seem successful...even God's people turn back to them And find no fault in them... You keep thinking something is going to happen to them...but it doesn't

They die a peaceful death at a ripe old age... They seem to get away with it and seem bulletproof

At a church in Texas.... A pastor who loved Jesus....sacrificed every day for the kingdom Served his congregation well... The church is celebrating baptism...what a beautiful setting to honor God Everything is good....until this 33 year old pastor reaches out of the water To adjust a microphone.... He was electrocuted in front of his congregation and died...

God where are you? That makes absolutely no sense...to us These wicked people prosper... And a young pastor doing your work...getting ready to baptize someone... You have to look at that and say God what in the world is going on?!

That is where the Psalmist is. The human condition is the same today.... As it was for Asaph thousands of years ago. Wicked people prospering....and God's people suffering... Esaph is being honest here and just says...God this is driving me crazy.

Psalm 73:12–14 (ESV) 12 Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches. 13 All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence. 14 For all the day long I have been stricken and rebuked every morning.

He starts the comparison game.. The wicked are at ease..increasing in riches... They don't care about anything...morality...other people....they use others... Get rich doing it..and it seems God doesn't do anything

If there is a God...why do these people get away with it? Mocking God...but rich..healthy...and care free.

Then Esaph turns to himself.... Note that when we are limited to our perspective... It often leads us to self pity Look at his emotion here....All in vain...I have kept my heart clean... I have washed my hands in innocence. You know what...I was stupid...it was in vain that I kept my heart pure. I lived a pure life and I am suffering right now..

Esaph....has a limited perspective. I think...he says...I have just wasted my life. I have done what God asked me to do...and it is not working out... The temple worship leader says...this was all in vain... But then Esaph says something Critically important that we cannot miss....

Psalm 73:15 (ESV) 15 If I had said, "I will speak thus," I would have betrayed the generation of your children.

Esaph says...."This is how I felt" These are the thoughts that were running through my head. IF I had spoken up I could have misled people. Because I am a leader...if I had spoken these thoughts... At that moment... Esaph says...I would have betrayed your children.

My perspective was so limited....If I had spoken.... I would have discouraged so many people. I would have turned them against God...

Proverbs 18:2 (ESV) 2 A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

Esaph had the wisdom of a leader...to keep his mouth shut. When we are processing through something... When we don't yet understand something...

And when we know we are leading others.. We must recognize that we don't know what we don't know.... And during that process we need to keep our mouths shut

I have seen many leaders...many church leaders....who lack this wisdom They process everything they think out loud. Rather than taking it to God for His perspective... They begin trying to build a consensus among other people.... As they dump their frustration about God onto those they are supposed to be leading.

It is so important.... That we all have the wisdom...of knowing when to be quiet.

Esaph had a struggle with God... Because he kept it between he and God It only affected him and God.

Later on we will see that he just needed God's perspective.. He didn't know what he didn't know But rather than act like he knew it all He kept his mouth shut And later he learns how skewed his perspective was.

And so he says...man I am glad I wasn't stupid enough To lead people based only on my perspective. Because I would have betrayed generations. Then my favorite verse in this whole passage..

Psalm 73:16–17 (ESV) 16 But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task, 17 until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.

Note the critical decision here...I thought to understand this So many of us never try to understand. We are so sure our perspective is right We never consider that our perspective might be off.

The first thing you must understand...when you are in spiritual traffic jams Is that you need God's perspective

I tried to understand what God was doing but it was oppressive to me Until....this is so powerful....I went into the Sanctuary of God I don't know what I don't know.... But God does... My perspective is so limited...I am down here in this traffic jam I can't see the bigger picture...I can't appreciate my blessings. I live in a world that makes no sense to me.... I was burdened by what I was seeing.... I had a decision to make....

Do I want to get Bitter....or Better...

My perspective was leading to bitterness.... Until I entered..... the Sanctuary of God When I chose to prioritize my time with God above all else. I entered the throne room...and I began to see the world....not from my perspective... But from His.

When I am sitting with God....looking through the lens He gives me... Everything changed...

Paul said this.... Romans 12:2 (ESV) 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

The only place that our mind can be renewed... The only place that we can test and discern the will of God... Is alone with Jesus in the Sanctuary...our quiet place.

We enter that space...angry..bitter...confused... disillusioned...with our flawed perspective We leave that place knowing what is good and acceptable and perfect. We gain the perspective of Jesus and leave ours behind. We have chosen to abide and that changes everything.

If I had not gone into the Sanctuary.... I would still not know what I don't know I would still be very frustrated..Bitter....and maybe walking away from God. It is abiding in the Sanctuary...alone with Jesus...that I finally gain perspective. Then he says....I discerned their end...

Translated..."God showed me the whole picture...from His perspective" I was focusing on their lives right now.... He wanted me to focus on their future... Let's see what he learned.

Psalm 73:18–19 (ESV) 18 Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin. 19 How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors!20 Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms.

They don't have it made...they are doomed. Sure their lives here seem carefree.... But their eternal destiny is horrible.

They may be gliding through life now...but they are on a slippery slope They have no future and are headed to ruin. It is all going to be over for them in a moment. It is all going to crash down on them... They will be filled with terror. Their punishment is coming...it is all going to fall apart.

I didn't see that before..... I didn't have an eternal perspective... It wasn't until I came into the Sanctuary with God.. That He showed me what I did not know. The circumstances are the same...but my perspective has changed.

I can now see that in the end... All the sins will be exposed... They may be cruising through life now... But one day ..in a split second... They will be standing in front of the God they have been mocking And it is going to be bad for them.

I have been focused...jealously longing for the things they had But I should have been in Holy Horror about their final destiny

They are living a fantasy that is going to become an eternal nightmare From the Sanctuary....from my time abiding...I can see...that they need to be saved. From my flawed perspective on earth...I wanted to join them But now with God's perspective from the Sanctuary... I realize I need to try to save them...

So I love the way Esaph says... "Until I came into the Sanctuary of God" When we stop trying to figure out everything on our own When we realize that we don't know what we don't know

We learn to take the things that don't make sense to us... The circumstances of our lives that are frustrating... Scary...uncertain...and seem so big. And we humble ourselves and get on our knees...

We go to God... And we pour our hearts out to Him.... Sharing our confusion...sharing our fears...honestly telling God our perspective But then recognizing...that our perspective is simply that...our limited view..from our fallen state...on earth

And we begin to develop deep roots....that lead to the best Spiritual fruit.... In that moment when we say...But God I need to see this situation the way you see it. I trust that you know...what I don't know. I surrender to your view...not mine.

In that moment..because you chose to abide in Him, God begins to show you what you have not seen before.

When we choose to abide...to relate to Jesus.....to be focused on His perspective, Our problems get smaller...because God gets so much bigger. With God's perspective... The things that here on earth look so wonderful...aren't really that great. The things here on earth that seemed so bad....aren't really that bad. It is only from abiding with Christ that things begin to make sense.

Every time you leave your quiet time with God.... it is your perspective...your understanding...and your plan of action... that you leave behind....the floor of your quiet place with God is littered with old perspectives and planned actions that you have discarded.

Psalm 73:20–22 (ESV) 21 When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart, 22 I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you.

God I was kind of out of control... Saying terrible things to you God. I was ignorant...because I thought my perspective was the only perspective. God I didn't mean to question you..I just lost it. My heart was grieved...my spirit embittered....

I have had those conversations with God before. I have been the angriest at God over some of the things in my life.. That when I look back at them..they were actually the best things for me. God I am so sorry...I was just dumb.

Psalm 73:23 (ESV) 23 Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.

God even though I was ignorant...and questioning you... You still loved me... When I was frustrated and dumping on you... Questioning you....you just held my hand And led me through it. Then Esaph turns to worship...

Psalm 73:24–26 (ESV) 24 You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory. 25 Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you. 26 My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. 27 For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.

My prayer for us during this series is that we would all stop believing... That anything on this earth will bring us more pleasure Than an intimate relationship with Jesus.

This is where it comes from... Who have I in heaven but you? And here it is... There is nothing on this earth that I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail... My perspective will fail me... But God's perspective will be my strength forever.

Then Esaph (A-SEF) finishes this amazing Psalm Esaph says when all that stuff was bothering me... You just held me... Then you guided me with your perspective. One day you will take me away from here to heaven... Who do I have in heaven but you?

Often in the past, I have challenged you to think about.... If you could have heaven and all that it entails...no death...no disease...no tears... But Jesus was not there...would you go?

Do you love Jesus...or just what He can provide for you? Esaph says....What do I have in heaven but you? You are the only thing in Heaven that matters to me. You know what I am looking forward to in Heaven? Just being with you... Seeing you face to face?

We sing a song around here that says.... "This world has nothing for me....I will follow you" Because I need you Jesus...to come to my rescue.. Can you really say that? This world has nothing for me?

Really is that true for you today? Do you love Him that much?

Everywhere you look...you will see others..who have more... More health..more wealth..more whatever.. But are you at a point where you say...who cares? I have all that I need...I have Jesus. what else could I want? I don't need to covet what others have.. From my new perspective.... From the Sanctuary...I can see... That I have Jesus...and He is all that I need.

From David's view in the Sanctuary..he said it best... The Lord is my Shepherd...I shall not want. He leads me to still waters...He takes care of me... What else could I want...?

Psalm 73:28 (ESV) 28 But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

Look at how he ends...It is good for ME to be near God There are two application points for all of us from Asaph's Psalm 1) It is good for us to stay near to God...to abide and 2) Once God give us His perspective...THEN...it is time to talk to others.

We must share God's Perspective with others. One of the best motivators for evangelism Is to come into the presence of God And allow Him to change your perspective... To shift your paradigm.

I have made the Lord my refuge. that I may tell of your works... Esaph had to choose to abide.

When things did not sense from his perspective He knew that he must position himself to get God's perspective Prior to getting God's perspective on the situation...Esaph kept his mouth shut. But look how he ends this...I have made the Lord my refuge that I may tell of your works.

The only perspective I am to share with others....is Yours God. Because My perspective is always flawed.... Because I don't know what I don't know.

We want to be Christ followers... With roots so deeply connected to Jesus. That the Holy Spirit flows through us And our lives bust out with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness and self control

the quality of spiritual fruit in your life...is directly related to the time that you spend...
abiding alone with Jesus. Surrendering your perspective... And gaining His.

How do we apply this to our lives? I want all of us...to remember that we don't know what God knows.

When you look at situations or challenges in your life.... Before you go and dump your perspective
on others Take your struggles to Christ.. And ask God to share with you...what you do not know..

I told you we were going to look at the Psalms to remind ourselves... Of why we need to
prioritize our time with Jesus above everything else.

Aseph (A-sef) teaches us in Psalm .that it is in the abiding.....what he calls sanctuary.. Where
we are transformed because we see the world from God's perspective...and that changes
everything...

Right now...in our nation...many Christ followers are seriously struggling with the direction of our
nation. We don't understand why God is allowing those who openly deny and offend Him to
prosper. Asaph's perspective could easily be ours.

But unlike Asaph (A-SEF), we have not taken our struggle with God to God. That is the issue you
know. I see so many people who are freaking out about national events....full of
worry....angst...and indignation. What they don't realize is that their issue is not with those who
disagree with them....those of the other political party or those with other ideologies. If you are
lacking peace about what is happening in our nation and our world....you have a problem...and
let me share with you...what you may not be willing to admit.

Your anger....your frustration...your disappointment....your indignation.....is...WITH GOD.
You are angry at God. Because He did not agree with your perspective. He is in total
control...with absolute authority...power and reign....He is sovereign and He did not do what
you wanted Him to do and His choice for our nation whomever the President is. We may
vote, but God alone chooses our President.

We like Aespeh, get frustrated with God. Those we disagree with seem to prosper.
Honestly, God seems to have dropped the ball. God must need our help. While we
should be in the quiet place with Him dealing with our disappointment with Him, but
instead we are firing off our perspective on social media as if you were speaking for Him.
You are sharing your perspective and trying to stamp it with the authority of God. Yet if
it is happening God has already allowed it for His purposes.

Now I am not saying that there should be no disappointment or concern when the world
turns more and more away from God. But, we have to know where to take that
perspective. Asaph knew that if he spoke to others before gaining God's
perspective....that he would "have betrayed the generation of your children". Instead of
calmly guiding others to God's will for our nation, we are running around as if God is not
in control and we need to fix it. The message we are sending to the future generations is
that God is not sovereign and not in control. By speaking our will instead of God's Will,
we are betraying a generation of children who are watching us.

Believers who have spent time in the quiet place with God have a peace about what is happening in our nation. We left our perspective on the floor and we walked out with God's plan for End Times and because of that we walk out with His peace, joy, love, patience and all the fruit of the Spirit.

It is in the quiet place with God where He reminds us of our true citizenship, the mission He has called us to, and the temporary nature of earthly things and kingdoms.

All Christ followers should be offended by what our nation is doing....not just now but for a very long time. But those who have God's perspective.....have peace about it. I took this concern to God many years ago.....and I gained His perspective. Let me try to help reshape your perspective from what I have learned alone with God.....As Asaph said...

Psalm 73:28 (ESV) 28 But for me it is good to be near God; I have made the Lord God my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.

Here is what God shared with me....I left my perspective discarded on the floor....and gained His.

God is working out His plan that has existed for all of eternity. He is reconciling all men to Himself. He is arranging everything in the world to bring the most people possible into a relationship with Jesus. God will allow anything in the world to happen if it saves more people for eternity.

Many have made our nation their God. Our military their strength...our laws their Bible....and our national interests God's directive. ..Many American Christ followers believe that the US must be worshiped and will always exist as God's nation. Most Americans have made their political party their church... their news channel their source of truth....Donald Trump, Joe Biden, Charlie Kirk, AOC, or Mandami their Messiah and Facebook their devotional and sounding board. .. For many believers, sadly the American Flag is more important than the Cross of Jesus, the Pledge of Allegiance is more important than the Apostle's Creed, and the Constitution is to be guarded as if it was God's gospel. Many abide in CNN or Fox- hanging on every word and shaping their perspective as if God does not exist.

Whatever Americans desire for themselves is what they believe that God must do. Many believe that American lives mean more to God than Kenyan lives. That Christians are more loved by God than Muslims, Jews, or Atheists. Many Christians believe that God owes it to us to bless America. Americans seem to worship or deeply hate God's choice for President. All Presidents become devoted believers during their campaign. They profess to know Jesus, but they have no fruit. When you examine their lives, you see no evidence of abiding. They lack supernatural love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness or self control and yet we still exalted them as a godly man worthy of our worship. Jesus said you would know a man by his fruit and you would know a false prophet by their lack of it.

Yet in the Quiet Place you gain God's perspective. Americans are killing babies, discarding His design for families, flaunting their sinful desires, worshiping money, selling and degrading women all while convincing them they are free and empowered,

promoting sinful choices as if they were God's design flaw, and treating His truth as if it is flawed and unimportant. He is bringing about His punishment on a stiff necked and rebellious people....Americans. No one does what we have done with God and not experience His righteous wrath and judgment.

In the quiet place, we gain His perspective. We are in the end times. There is no mention in Scripture of the United States...no mention of a great power from the West....or a great Eagle or Bald Eagle who sweeps in to save the day....or mention of any nation who stands with Israel.

The entire world will turn on Israel...and God alone will protect her. As the end times clock ticks down....the American experiment with Democracy counts down faster. God's plan is to reconcile all mankind who are willing to Himself and the US is expendable if necessary to accomplish that goal. So we should expect that God will bring about leaders to accomplish His goals for the end times.

My perspective? I am disappointed that our nation is where it is. I am saddened that the American Dream is over. I am concerned for my children and grandchildren. Truthfully, I am glad that I will not be here in 40 years to watch it all fall apart....But that is my perspective and I left it on the floor of my quiet place with Jesus..

In the quiet place, I have discarded my perspective and gained God's. I am at peace about all of it....because I have been with God...and I am now on His agenda...not mine. I have not spoken out about this yet, because I have been wrestling with God in our quiet place.

God is bringing His judgment upon the United States and we deserve it.

Many Christ followers in America need to decide which is more important...Their perspective for our nation....or God's eternal perspective for all of mankind.

I want what God wants. I am sold out to His mission not mine....His desires not mine...and His plan for us...not mine. You see...My God is in Heaven....He does as He pleases. And that is just fine with me. He has given me His perspective and He has gifted me with His supernatural peace about what is happening in our nation. We need to stop grieving the loss of the American Dream and grieve the loss of people for all of eternity.

The whole point of end times...is to bring rebellious people into a salvation relationship through Jesus. To take away everything in their lives that gets between them and God so that they can finally turn to Him. Presidents will change. Political parties will cycle through process. Our nation will continue to drift from God. Our world will likely not change...each day will bring us closer to God's judgment....but in the when we abide, the first thing God changes is our perspective. Once we see the world as God sees it and surrender to His plan, the fruit of othe Spirit....God's juicy fruit....flows through us. Let's Pray.