GOD'S UNFOLDING BLESSING

PS&LM 119:130









- Changing computer program by understanding how the programmer thought
 - You would have to learn how the program creator thought to know how to make the needed changes without crashing the system
 - See through different eyes, different understanding
 - It was difficult at times (Goto commands), confusing at times (why), hard at times

- I want to encourage you this morning on your Christian walk
 - It is difficult to walk the talk as a Christian, but it always has been
 - It is difficult studying Scripture, easy to read, harder to grasp and apply
 - We have our own human fleshly preconceived ideas of right and wrong
 - Our English words don't always convey the full meaning of the Hebrew or Greek words
 - Life between then and now is so different how can I possibly glean truth I desperately need for today
 - Everybody else seem to have it figured out when I am struggling inside
 - It is easy to get distracted, feel left out, through up your hands and scream, "What's the use or I will never....?" when you struggle

- I want to encourage you in your Spiritual journey, in your life of being a disciple of Jesus
 - Hint no one has it all figured out
 - > no one is perfect
 - > everyone struggles with their personal sin
 - we are all walking wounded
 - But there are many around you here that love the Lord and you, and they continue moving forward toward Jesus by studying God's Word
 - So, I want to encourage you this morning in your study of God's Word because that is what leads to everything Jesus

Scripture

- Psalm 119:130 NIV, "The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple."
 - Vs 133 NIV, "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."

- John 8:12 NIV, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never
 walk in darkness but will have the light of life."
 - I don't know about you, but it sure seems dark on my spiritual journey at times
 - When things drop into your day you just didn't see coming when you thought you had it all planned out and Jesus ready
 - When the Bible tells says you are blessed, but your feeler screams like King David, "How long O God will you not answer me!"
 - When you know God will make a way, but all you see are red stop lights, just hoping for a green light today, Lord

- John 8:12 NIV, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never
 walk in darkness but will have the light of life."
- So, what is the answer?
 - Grasping onto what you know is true
 - ➤ I am an eternal child of God, sin debt forgiven, filled with Holy Spirit, loved by Jesus
 - > God is not ashamed of me just because I'm struggling
 - > I am being led to a blessing by my Heavenly Father
 - I'm going to keep studying God's love message to me in His Word until I'm home with Him
 - > I'm going to let Him unfold His Word to me

- "The unfolding of your words gives light"
- Think about unfolding a paper road map what do you use it for?
 - The first thing you must do is to find where you are at
 - Then you must find where you are going
 - Then to choose the roads that will get you there
 - You trusted the map
 - It was not done for you, did not tell you each turn or what lane to be in, how long before you reach your destination
 - You gather more information as you proceed to make adjustments

- "The unfolding of your words gives light"
- Think about unfolding a paper road map what do you use it for?
 - You must pay attention to where you are at, remember where you are going, and what turns coming up
 - You stay with the map, don't throw it out the window, don't ignore it, it is a tool to get you from point A to point B
 - The Bible is God's tool to take you from point A in your life to point B

- "The unfolding of your words gives light (understanding)"
 - Unfolding to reveal, to open up, disclose what is inside
 - Opening a Christmas present
 - > The excitement builds as more of the present is revealed
 - You hope it is not in a reused box
 - You begin to see and hope with more clarity as more of the wrapping comes off
 - You stay with it until that present is seen with your eyes, held in your hands, it becomes real

- God's Word is like a flower bud
 - There is the promise of interaction with our eyes, smell, and maybe touch
 - It brings joy in the moment
 - But there are some things it needs; sun for warmth encouraging it to open more, nutrients for strength, water to bring the nutrients up
- You can simply read God's Word and a bud of understanding is seen
 - But it takes the warmth of study or meditation to encourage what is deep inside that bud to reveal itself
 - It takes the water of faith to know God is longing for me to understand
 - It takes the Holy Spirit in my life to understand and make it real

- Notice the opening up or progression in
 - Psalm 1:1-4 NIV, "1 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, 2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.
 - ➤ 3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers."

- Notice the opening up or progression
 - Psalm 1:1 NIV, "1 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked (natural man, ungodly)"
 - > Walking close, observing, paying attention, desiring to imitate
 - Psalm 1:1 NIV, "or stand in the way that sinners (ensnared)"
 - Now they have progressed to agree with and to be identified with the wicked, sinner, be ensnared
 - Psalm 1:1 NIV, "take or sit in the company of mockers (scorn as worthless)"
 - Now you are agreeing with and promoting the sinner lifestyle

- Notice the opening up or progression of path two
 - Psalm 1:2-3 NIV, "2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers." Or we might say, "Blessed"
 - Meditate to think about, ponder, contemplate, unfold for deeper meaning
 - Always under the supervision and direction of the Holy Spirit
- Which path do you think leads to God's blessing, do you even care?

- 2nd Timothy 2:15 AMP, "Study and do your best to present yourself to God approved, a workman [tested by trial] who has no reason to be ashamed, accurately handling and skillfully teaching the word of truth."
 - Don't just read the Bible, but study it, seeking its wisdom to your day-today lives
 - Your main goal is not obtaining information, but to grasp the wisdom of that truth and practice it
 - Seeking to grasp the mind and wisdom of God
 - How He thinks, responds, what is important to Him
 - 1st Corinthians 2:16 NIV, 16 for, "Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.
 - So which way are you progressing

The unfolding of God's Word promises understanding, direction, and freedom

- Psalm 119:130 NIV, "The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple."
 - Vs 133 NIV, "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."
- Who does the unfolding?
 - The Hebrew word for "understanding" implies the ability to distinguish what is real and unreal, truth from false
 - Jesus in the wilderness being tempted

The unfolding of God's Word promises understanding, direction, and freedom

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 - Vs 133 NIV, "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."
 - The Hebrew word for "simple" in this verse is, "Open to understanding, nothing hindering understanding"
 - Unfolding give those who are "open to understand" what is true from false
 - ➢ By using the unfolding of God's truth, we can see how to apply God's truth to living our lives
 - Which allow me to live in freedom from the falsehood of sin
- John 8:36 NIV, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

- Peter struggled to understand scriptures Paul wrote
 - Peter 3:15-16 MSG, "Our good brother Paul, who was given much wisdom in these matters, refers to this in all his letters, and has written you essentially the same thing. Some things Paul writes are difficult to understand. Irresponsible people who don't know what they are talking about twist them every which way. They do it to the rest of the Scriptures, too, destroying themselves as they do it."

- Peter struggled with peer pressure
 - Galatians 2:11-13 MSG, 11-13 Later, when Peter came to Antioch, I had a face-to-face confrontation with him because he was clearly out of line. Here's the situation. Earlier, before certain persons had come from James, Peter regularly ate with the non-Jews. But when that conservative group came from Jerusalem, he cautiously pulled back and put as much distance as he could manage between himself and his non-Jewish friends. That's how fearful he was of the conservative Jewish clique that's been pushing the old system of circumcision. Unfortunately, the rest of the Jews in the Antioch church joined in that hypocrisy so that even Barnabas was swept along in the charade.
- Rejoice, God didn't reject Peter when he stumbled, and He will never reject you, His precious child

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