



11/27/24

Every year, I choose different scriptures to pray for each member of my family, as well as myself. I've started choosing scriptures for 2025, and Psalm 115:1 is one of the verses I will be praying for myself... that I would not be seeking my own glory, but God's. I feel like I'm in such need of the Lord's help on this that I also found a song based on Psalm 115. It's called Not to Us (Psalm 115) by The Worship Initiative. If you'd like to hear it, here's a link... <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKPioeEITkA>

*Blessings,
Jonna*

Psalm 115

What does it mean to experience the living God, to be in deep relationship with Him?

Vs. 1 ~ To experience God fully, I have to be humble and recognize that HE deserves all the glory, not me. Why? Because He is the one who has an unbreakable covenant loyalty love poured out on all who belong to Him, a love we don't deserve. I don't deserve the glory because I don't love like my Lord, Yahweh, does...especially not with those who stand against me. He also is the one who has all truth and faithfulness. I can completely, 100% rely on Him. As much as I want to be that faithful, I don't have His kind of faithfulness. The closer I grow to Him the more I grow in faithfulness and love, but that's only because of Him... not me. Experiencing Him in all His fullness takes humility, not seeking my glory, but His.

Vs. 2-3 ~ Experiencing God means that I'm not fearing the rejection of man, but I'm trusting in the sovereignty of God, that He is in control and in charge. Nothing and no one can stop Him from doing what pleases Him... and only what is good pleases Him. The people of the world WILL question my faith. They WILL accuse me of being foolish, ignorant, judgmental, wrong... I can't measure my goodness by what accusers say. I need to measure it by what God says... not accusing my accusers in return but loving them with the love of Jesus... while holding fast to the word of life.

Vs. 4-8 ~ Experiencing Jesus means not getting sucked into worshiping idols... idols of the heart that take the place of God's authority in my life... things that I want so badly I'm willing sin to have, or I sin if I'm kept from them.

These idols are just passions of my flesh that justify and rationalize my devotion to them. Back when this psalm was written, the idols were made of silver and gold... and in some ways they still are... money, jewelry, prosperity, clothes. They represent what I want... to be valued, honored. But those things are just the work of my own hands. They don't live and breathe. They have no power to satisfy. They can't speak or see or hear or smell or feel or walk. They can't even make a tiny little sound.

"Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them." Idols do not give life. Serving them takes life away. When I was serving the idol of body image and music as my method to gain honor for myself, I was never satisfied. I thought it meant I needed to try harder, but no effort can bring the peace and joy and contentment that only comes in Jesus. Jonah 2:8 says, "Those who pay regard to vain (empty) idols forsake their hope of steadfast love." It's not that God takes His love away, it's that I seek love from another source that has no power to give His kind of love. O Lord, please reveal whatever idols I'm still hiding in my heart and give me the strength to lay them at Your feet in undivided surrender.

Vs. 9-11 ~ To experience God, I put my full confidence in Him, trusting that He is who He says He is. I trust that He is my help... my support. This blows me away. The God of the Universe helps and supports ME! He is so generous and kind... because His love is constant and deep, and His faithfulness is unshakable and true. He is also my shield... my protector. I NEED His protection. I need Him to protect me from the philosophies of the world that are so contrary to who He is but seem to make so much sense to my selfish mind. I need His protection from the devil who is actively trying to destroy my faith through any means necessary... distraction, temptation, shame, inspiring false pride. I can't fight him off without the Lord, my faithful help and shield. And I really need God's protection from MYSELF, my flesh that is hostile to Him. My flesh will dwell with me until He takes me home to heaven. O Lord, protect me from myself!

This passage repeats the command to trust in the Lord Yahweh three times. That means this is a big deal. Pay attention. First, the psalmist speaks to Israel... the chosen people of God. The name Israel means, "contends with God." So... trust in the Lord all you who once contended with God but now belong to Him. Second, trust in the Lord, Aaron. Aaron represents the priesthood of God... those who serve Him. Don't serve Him in action alone, but with your whole heart. Genuinely trust Him with everything. Lastly, the psalmist commands all who "fear the Lord" to trust Him. Who are those who fear the Lord? All who worship Him, who bow to Him and not idols. He is the help and shield for those who belong to Him, who serve Him, who worship Him. Put your full confidence in Him.

Vs. 12-13 ~ "The Lord has remembered us..." He is mindful of us. He has always thought of us. He thinks of us now. He will always remember us... and will always be our help and shield. He will

never abandon us because of His steadfast love and genuine faithfulness. So... Jonna... remember HIM. Love HIM. Be faithful to HIM.

"He will BLESS us," not curse us... not accuse us... not condemn us. He will bless Israel, His chosen. He will bless Aaron, His priesthood. He will bless all who fear Him, all who put their trust in Him, both small and great. It doesn't matter who I am or what my role is or what my status is... God WILL remember me and bless me. I don't deserve it, but that doesn't stop Him... because of His steadfast love and faithfulness.

Not to me, O Lord, not to me, but to YOUR name I lay down my idols and give You the glory... You are worthy.