



Worship Guide for **June 28, 2020**

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westwoodguest

Sermon Notes

The Fight for Faith

Psalm 77 (pew Bible pg. 488)

In the fight for faith – sometimes prayer is not enough..... (vv 1-3)

This might seem contradictory to much we've heard and seen in the Psalms, and to some it might sound like unbelief or heresy. But the trouble in Asaph's life, the difficulties surrounding him, drove him to unceasing prayer, and that praying did not seem to help. The difficulties did not disappear; the trouble did not cease. Alec Motyer describes Psalm 77 as "a piece of down-to-earth realism."

In the fight for faith – recalling personal experiences is not always helpful (vv 4-9)

Recollection is not very helpful, and in fact can be harmful, when our perspective is clouded or distorted by our ever-changing circumstances and moods. On good days our faith is strong. On bad days - especially back to back to back bad days – nothing seems clear. In these dark seasons of the soul we question everything, including the very character of God.

In the fight for faith our best weapon is God's word – remembering the revelation of his wonderous deeds (vv 10-20)

Asaph's fight for faith turns as he remembers and meditates on the works of God in history. He reflects on God's holiness and remembers his redemptive work on behalf of his people in the exodus. He rests in the reality of God's guidance as the faithful Shepherd. Like Asaph, our most effective weapon in this battle is "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Eph 6:17). And that word reminds us we have something far, far greater than Asaph had to look back on that brings us comfort and strengthens us in our fight for faith: we look back (or up) to the cross, and the empty tomb of our risen victorious Lord. Because of his victory over sin and death, we have victory in our fight for faith.



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Weekly Discipleship Guide

Sunday

In your journal, reflect on today's sermon by answering the following:

I never knew:

I was challenged:

I was reminded:

I was convicted:

A question I still have:

A truth I could share:

Know

Monday

Spend some time today doing the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Select a portion of this week's sermon passage to memorize this week.

Write your selected portion and read it to yourself at least 10 times throughout the day.

Know > Be

Tuesday

In your journal, spend some time writing about the following:

Read the sermon passage again.

Write a prayer of response, guided by the passage.

(May include adoration, confession/repentance, thanksgiving, petition, etc...)

Write your selected portion of the Scripture several times to aid in memorization.

Be

Wednesday

Think about this week's questions for group discussion:

How can we discern the difference between feelings and truth? How can our memory sometimes hinder us spiritually?

How would you answer the question, how *real* is your Christianity? Why? How would you define *real*? Why?

How will you allow this Psalm to shift your view of God in the midst of a trial or how you respond to a trial when it occurs?

Be > Do

Thursday

In your journal, spend some time considering the following:

What insights have you had while internalizing this week's passage?

How specifically will you seek to apply its truths in your home/workplace/life in general?

Do

*Use this guide to help you internalize this week's passage & message.

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Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor
Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor
Jim Fulp: Counseling Pastor
Jason Engle: Pastor of Students
& Discipleship
Katie Austin: Children's Ministry
Coordinator

Contact Us

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Church Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00am - 1:00pm
Other times by appointment.

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