

73 JOD. Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.

"**Thy hands have made me and fashioned me:**" All mankind are the procreation from Adam and Eve, whom God made in the beginning. We ourselves are formed and fashioned by the hand of God as seen in scripture in:

- **Job 10:8 Thine hands have made me and fashioned me together round about;**
- **Job 31:15 Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb?**
- **Job 33:4 The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.**
- **Ps 100:3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.**
- **Ro 9:20 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?**

When we examine the definitions of these words we find something that makes us understand better what King David is saying. Consider: fashioned me means: *to be erect (i.e. stand perpendicular); to set up, establish, fix, prepare, appoint, render sure, proper, confirm, direct, faithfulness, fashion, fasten, be fitted, be fixed, frame, be meet, ordain, order, perfect, make preparation, provide, make provision.*

King David is saying; God formed me by creating the human body, and God has made me who I am in nature, king over Israel. God has made me to be upright in life and established me in this work that he has set me in as king over Israel.

"**give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.**" King David is asking for the anointing of the Holy Spirit, which will give him understanding of what God would have him to do. King David desires that God would give him greater and more understanding of the commandments of God; so that King David may be surely grounded in the ways of the Lord, and serve him faithfully.

We know from our study in Deuteronomy; two of the things that the king over Israel is to do are:

- Write a copy of the laws of God,
- Read them every day,

Seen in scripture in: **De 17:18 And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: 19 And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: 20 That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.** Thus we understand; if King David is doing as God has commanded, he is asking God to open up his understanding so that in reading, and studying, the law of God, he may come to a right understanding of God's intention, not a misguided notion that suits the man.

Now make application to your own life as a Christian. Do you truly understand where you came from; both in nature and in your rebirth? Are you as "kings and priests to God" delving into the word of God every day as we see the commandment in Deuteronomy? Do you desire to understand God's word of truth? Do you want the bible, God's word of truth, to be effectual in your life, and to make you a better person, and better Christian?

74 They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word.

Others, that fear thee, will be glad when they see, that I am grounded in thy truth and blessing, because I have believed and trusted in thy word.

As a Christian; are you well grounded in the word of God, so that others are glad to be in your presence?

75 I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.

King David has been taught, by the lessons of life that God has led him through, that though God may send afflictions upon you; it is for your benefit in the end. King David knows that God will send judicial judgements upon you when you sin against God. King David understood that even judicial judgements were to bring him back to a right relationship with God.

Apply this concept to your life. God has given us the natural settings in our lives to bring us to where we are in nature. God has given us the spiritual blessings to bring us to where we are as a Christian. Because we are born again by the Holy Spirit; we understand that God may allow, or send, afflictions, not temptations, in our lives to bring us to a right understanding of: his word of truth, who we are (the sinner), and who God and Christ are to us, the Saviour. Think about this: Had we no afflictions; we could not know joy and peace.

76 Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant.

77 Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight.

Because of King David's right understanding of verse 75 above; he can now say; let the application of thy mercy, as it is bestowed in my life, be a comfort to me. Let thy word be effectual in my life, which will enable me to see, when, even in thy judgements against me, you are being merciful and kind. I acknowledge that you are God, and Lord, and beg for thy kindness and mercy to be my companions, that I may have life abundant in thee. Thy law is delightful, when I understand it rightly.

Truly, the born again sinner can witness with King David in this prayer for mercy and comfort from God.

78 Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with me without a cause: but I will meditate in thy precepts.

King David continues his prayer to God: let the proud (*the arrogant and presumptuous*) be ashamed (*disappointed and confounded*) because they have perversely (*falsely*) accused me. King David says; no matter that they falsely accuse me, I will still meditate in thy precepts (*appointed mandate, thy word.*)

We have similar words in the New Testament in: **1Pe 3:14-16; 12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. 13 And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? 14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; 15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: 16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. 17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing. 18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:**

We understand that God knows even the thoughts and intents of the hearts of all men. Look at the abundance of mercy we have, because of what Christ suffered on our behalf. Why should we murmur and complain against false accusers? If we handle it according to God's word, we can only gain from it, in the here and now, and in eternity.

79 Let those that fear thee turn unto me, and those that have known thy testimonies.

Let me be gathered about with others who also fear the Lord. Drive away the false accusers. Let them be replaced by the presence of thy saved and holy people. Let me be surrounded by others who are also grounded in thy truths, and know thy word of truth. King David understands; if he is surrounded by godly people he will be comforted. He will not be so tempted to turn away from God, and that they all may be a comfort and support to each other.

We have such scriptural doctrine in the New Testament in: **Heb 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 And having an high priest over the house of God; 22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**

80 Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed.

Finally, King David gets to the root of his prayer.

- ***Let my heart be sound.*** Sound means: *entire (literally, figuratively or morally); also; integrity, truth: without blemish, complete, full, perfect, sincere, without spot, undefiled, upright, whole.*
- ***In thy statutes.*** Statutes means: *an enactment; appointed, bound, commandment, decree, law, measure, ordinance, portion, set time, task.*
- ***That I be not ashamed.*** Ashamed means: *to pale, to be disappointed or delayed, be confounded, become dry.*

King David is asking God, to make him into the king God would have him to be. He is asking God to make his heart pure, holy, and undefiled before God. Why? King David desires to appear righteously before God, and he desires to be known as a righteous king, and man of God, by those around him.

King David wants to be so well grounded, in the commandments and statutes of God, that there will never be any confusion in his heart and mind. King David understands; if God afflicts him, it will be to make him into the person God would have him be; or, it may be bring him back to a right relationship with God. He especially wants to be in communion with God, and with God's people.

Now, let's make application to our own lives. Do we desire a sound heart? Do we desire to know what God has appointed for us in this life? Do we understand and know God's word of truth? Do we desire to be found righteous in the sight of God, and our fellowman?

Now let's look at this text by putting Christ and ourselves (God's people) in the place of King David.

"73 Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments." Christ was formed incarnate, in the womb of Mary, by God the Holy Ghost. Christ learned obedience by suffering death on the cross; seen in: *Heb 5:6 As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec. 7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; 8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; 10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.*

"74 They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word." Hoped means: *to wait, to be patient, trust.* Who fears God? Those who have been born again. Those who understand that God holds the power seen in: *Mt 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

Christ waited for the fulfillment of prophesy of his coming as the Messiah, his death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. When our salvation is revealed unto us, we rejoice to see our Saviour, the Christ.

"75 I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me." It was needful; that Christ suffer the judgement, and judicial penalty, for our sins. Otherwise, our sins would never have been remitted, nor would we be found righteous before God the Father. Christ understood this and thus fulfilled the will of God the Father to procure our salvation.

We find a parallel in New Testament scripture saying these same things in: *2Co 1-11; :1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia: 2 Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; 4 Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ. 6 And whether we be afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effectual in*

the enduring of the same sufferings which we also suffer: or whether we be comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation. 7 And our hope of you is stedfast, knowing, that as ye are partakers of the sufferings, so shall ye be also of the consolation. 8 For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: 9 But we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raiseth the dead: 10 Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us; 11 Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf.

"76 Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant. 77 Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight. 78 Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with me without a cause: but I will meditate in thy precepts." Remember these scriptures that Christ accomplished on our behalf:

- ***Heb 10:7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.*** The promise of God's word was; there would come a Messiah, and he would save God's people. It was delightful to Jesus to be about the Father's business.
- ***Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*** The law of God demanded blood for the remission of sins. Jesus knew that he was to be crucified, but the joy was he knew that he would return to heaven victorious over death, hell, and the grave, having accomplished the salvation of all of God's people. Christ knew that everlasting joys would be his, when he returned to his rightful place as King in the eternal heaven.

"79 Let those that fear thee turn unto me, and those that have known thy testimonies." Christ made it possible that we might be in the church of Salvation by Grace:

- ***Ac 13:16 Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.*** We know, that through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ, many souls feared God, and were brought to the church, and it is still happening today.
- ***1Pe 2:17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.*** We know we love God because we love the brethren. ***1Jo 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.***
- ***Re 14:7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.*** We know, the testimonies of the scriptures are true; and because they are, we fear, and worship, God and Christ.

"80 Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; that I be not ashamed." Christ is the only one, who had human flesh, that did not break any commandment of God. He is our Rock of Salvation. ***2Co 5:21 For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*** We, the born again sinners, will not be ashamed before our God, because Christ has clothed us in his own righteousness.

- ***1Pe 4:16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.***

- **1Jo 2:28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.**
- **Heb 11:16 But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.**

Glory and praise to our King, who has accomplished that which we could not attain unto. Thanks and praise to our Saviour; who has provided us a place of assembly, to worship and adore his name. Thanks and praise to Christ for our acceptance in the beloved. Thanks and praise to Jesus for the boldness to approach our God in prayer and supplication, seen in:

- **Php 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.**
- **Heb 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; 21 And having an high priest over the house of God; 22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.**
- **1Jo 4:17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.**

Praise God for our Saviour King; whose hands have made us and fashioned us, not only in our natural bodies and lives, but also into his own image. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!

Elder Clarke Lee, 2021-04-11