

## **Pre-Praying for 2021, part 2**

Insights from Psalm 2

Pastor Bob Johnson, January 24th, 2021

### **Two Potential Hindrances To Our Prayers:**

1. Distraction: “What about that?”
2. Intimidation “What about them?”

### **Two Keys from Psalm 1 to be less distracted:**

- A Practice: Meditating on God’s Truths (Psalm 1:1-2)
- A Picture: A Tree planted by a stream (Psalm 1:3)

### **A Caution and Key Reminder:**

(Isaiah 55:11, Isaiah 55:3, John 15:7, John 14:16-17, John 5:15-16)

### **Plotters back then and today: Psalm 2:1-3**

### **Two Keys from Psalm 2 to be less intimidated:**

- **God’s response of ...**

*He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.”*

*Psalm 2:4 (ESV)*

(Psalm 69:1-2; Psalm 69:14-15, Psalm 93:4)

- **God’s promise of ...**

*As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill. I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.”*

*Psalm 2:6-7 (ESV)*

(Acts 4:24-26, 13:32-33, 2 Samuel 7:8-18, Luke 1:31-33)

**For a free audio or video copy of this message go to [GracePointSD.com](http://GracePointSD.com)  
and/or search Grace Point Church San Diego on your Podcast App**

## **This Week's Discussion Guide:**

**Welcome to week 2 of our first small group season for 2021!! It is our prayer at GPC for our Sundays and small groups to provide the encouragement we all need to support each other as we desire to grow closer to God and build friendships in the coming weeks. This small group season will be for 10 weeks and wrap up the week of March 21st. Last week and this week we are studying and discussing some insights found in Psalm 1 and 2. After that, we'll be taking a look at the second half of the Book of Daniel. God gave Daniel some visions and dreams that were helpful back then and are still helpful for us today as we strive to understand more of God's larger story He is inviting us to be part of.**

### **Getting Started:**

Let's spend some time catching up. What happened since our last meeting that encouraged you, surprised you, or stretched you and/or what we can pray with you about?

In Psalm 2, it says that God actually laughs at those who believe they can succeed in opposing Him and His plans. Speaking of laughter, can you remember a time when you had a good laugh?

Can you think of a joke that you can share with the rest of us?  
What is a comedian or movie that has brought a smile to your face in the past?

David often wrote about water in the Psalms. In Psalm 69, he compared the intimidators that were opposing him as deep waters that wanted to drown him.

Speaking of water, when have you enjoyed being on or near water?  
When has water caused a concern for you?

In Psalm 2 we read that there are those who do take a stand against God and against those who desire to bring honor to Him. Can you think of a time when you felt a bit intimidated because of external pressure to conform to the world around you?

How did you respond? If you remained faithful to your Godly convictions, what helped you do that?

### **Quick Review:**

Let's re-read Psalm 2:1-7. From these verses and Sunday's message, and looking back at your notes, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged you, encouraged you, or stretched your thinking?

## Digging Deeper:

In John 15:7, we are encouraged to 'abide in Christ' and let God's Word 'abide in us'. In John 14:16-17 and v25-26 we are encouraged to not try to figure truth out for ourselves but rely on the Holy Spirit.

How can we know if we are relying on the Holy Spirit for guidance rather than trusting merely in ourselves?

Psalm 2 encourages us to see God as larger than any bulldozer or intimidator that tries to thwart God's plan or weaken our faith.

Currently, what in the world seems big to you and if you not careful, can overwhelm you and cause your faith to shrink?

To help be less intimidated, what passages of Scripture, descriptions of God or stories where God displays His power can help us see God for the size He is?

What would the opposite of being intimidated by the world be described like? Specifically, what might it look like for you to live free from intimidation from the world as you live day to day?

Reflect and describe your daily experience of God and how it reflects your belief in the realities that God is with you and for you like Jesus told us and showed us.

In Psalm 2:6-7 and 2 Samuel 7:8 and 7:18, David recognized how God was faithful and gracious to him in choosing and allowing him to be King of Israel. This recognition fueled his faith to believe God would continue to be faithful and gracious by one day sending the Messiah.

What can you point to in your life regarding how God has already been faithful and gracious to you?

How can recognizing these examples help fuel our faith in the midst of the present intimidations in our lives?

When Jesus was teaching on prayer, he encouraged us to pray according to what he shared in Matthew 6:9-13.

What insights from this passage stand out to you?

As Bob was wrapping up last Sunday, he encouraged us to imagine a world where more of God's love would be understood and experienced by more and more people.

Jesus encouraged us to pray, "Your Kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." What practically do you think that would look like?

How can we at GPC practically help be an answer to that prayer?