

Divine Romance - Spiritual Warfare

Week 9 – Wednesday

Psa. 52:5-8

When I got baptized my sister who helped me to get saved gave me my first ever new Bible—not this one. This is like my 5th Bible. I still have that Bible in my study at home, but it is kind of torn up and worn down. She gave me that Bible, and I don't know why, but I just had a desire—nobody told me, “From now on you should...” I just had a desire to read the Bible. So I started reading the Bible on my own pretty much every day. Mostly what I read were the Psalms. Then after that experience where I gave my life to the Lord, as I would read the Psalms it almost was as if the Lord was just right there sitting with me as I was reading. I really enjoyed the presence of the Lord when I read the Psalms. As I would read, I noticed that David complained a lot. Most of the Psalm, not all, were written by David. He was very honest with his feelings to God. In the New Testament the Lord said, “If someone hits you here, you should turn here that he can hit you there too.” There is a phrase that is well known not just by Christians: turn the other cheek. If something bad happens, you just turn so it can happen to you again. By the way, it is very hard to do that. The Bible even says that we should pray for our enemies; the Bible says that we should love our enemies. This is all true, but David said, “Lord, avenge me of my enemies. Lord, destroy the ones who are after me.” I liked that. When I was reading, I thought, “David, you are not supposed to talk that way. That is not very Christian like.” But I liked it, so David helped me learn how to talk to the Lord about everything and just tell Him.

One thing that I told you about my sister is that she is almost ten years older than I am. I have two brothers and they are older than she is. So my brothers are twelve and fourteen years older than me. So, even though I am not an only child, I felt like one. By the time I six or seven, my brothers and sister did not want to hang out with me; they were out with their friends. I was alone a lot; and I was not only alone, I was lonely. Some people are alone but do not feel lonely. I felt lonely. I actually prayed, “I really would like some brothers and sisters.” Of course, that was not going to happen because my mom and dad had me when they were older and I was it; I was even a mistake, but a sovereign mistake. Do you know how the Lord answered the prayer for brothers and sisters? By bringing me to the church; I came to the church when I was 14 years old and in the church life in New York there was a lot of other young people and they became my brothers and sisters. So, all through my high school years I had a lot of good companions—actually, companions for the rest of my life. Even some of those who were my companions in high school are still my companions today. But when I was in junior high I would feel lonely at times. Then I would just say, “Lord, I feel lonely. I wish...” Just tell Him how you feel. It does not mean that all of a sudden miraculously a brother appeared next to me. No, it is not like that, but through telling Him that, the Lord became my best friend. Through this book, the Bible, the Lord became my best friend. I hope that all of you can a kind of intimate relationship with the Lord, even so simple as to be able to tell Him everything, whatever is on your heart. David had this practice: “Evening and morning and at noontime I complain”; it doesn't say just complain. What does it say? “I moan.” When we moan it is really our inner feeling coming out. This is the key word that I want to bring out to you this afternoon. When you moan it is very genuine; your inner feeling comes out. Did your parents ever say to you, “We are going to such and such a place” and you moan? It is hard to moan and not make a face. You don't moan with a smile. Did you ever notice that when you moan something happens to your face? Do you know that you can do that to God and He never gets offended, He never gets bothered. You can

complain to Him; you can even moan. David somehow learned to experience God this way.