

## Transformed By Praise

### Week 5 Study Questions (pp. 39-50)

#### *Group Questions*

**Discussion starter:** Are you a “movie person” or a “book person”? If a novel is later made into a movie, would you rather read the novel first, see the movie first, or avoid one or the other? Why? Which do you enjoy more: the process of creating a mental picture from words, or viewing the artist’s depiction on the screen?

1. What does the author mean when he describes images as pictures of “concrete actions or things”?
2. Use your imagination to think about the literal picture in Psalm 18:1-19. Allow a little time “observe the scene.” What do you see in your mind’s eye?
3. Why is it important to interpret a frequently used image according to each context in which it appears? Give a biblical example of how this makes a difference in interpreting imagery.
4. According to the author, the three parts of a poetic image are the topic, the vehicle, and the tenor. Describe each of these parts.
  - a. Topic
  - b. Vehicle
  - c. Tenor
5. The topic and vehicle of an image are usually fairly easy to identify. Sometimes identifying the tenor requires reflection (this requires the most thought yet is the most rewarding aspect of poetic imagery). Identify and describe the topic, vehicle, and tenor of the image in Psalm 84:11.

6. Your reflection on imagery can be flexible, i.e., it can carry meaning and application beyond the vehicle. Give some examples of how the image in Psalm 23:2a is flexible.
  
7. Similes and metaphors are familiar forms of images. Describe the follow less familiar types of imagery, and give an example of how we employ each of them in everyday speech.
  - a. Metonymy
  
  - b. Synecdoche
  
  - c. Hyperbole
  
  - d. Breviloquence

### ***Digging Deeper***

In a narrow sense, psalms are poems contained in the Book of Psalms. But in a broader sense, many “psalms” are scattered throughout the Bible. Read and meditate on several of these poetic songs that occur at high points of redemptive history. Exod 15; Psalm 136 (cf. 2 Chron 5:11-14); Isa 12; Luke 1:46-55; Rev 18, 19.

### ***Application***

Read Psalm 23 slowly and deliberately, meditating on each image. Once you have contemplated each image, pray through the psalm, elaborating on the language of the psalmist. Allow yourself reflective flexibility while praying the imagery by “making it your own” and applying it to the concerns and desires of your heart.