

## Transformed By Praise

### Week 6 Study Questions (pp. 51-75)

#### *Group Questions*

**Discussion starter: It has been said that God does not want you to be happy, but wants you to be holy. Does this resonate with you? Why or why not?**

1. What does the author say is the purpose of the Book of Psalms? Why does he say this? Are you convinced by his reasons?
  
2. Do you usually associate being *blessed* with being *happy*? Is this comparison helpful or unhelpful for you? Why?
  
3. In the Psalms, blessedness means well-being in several areas of life. Discuss how these areas of blessedness should be understood, how they might be misunderstood, and how they relate to the gospel.
  - a. Family
  
  - b. Finances
  
  - c. Spirit
  
  - d. Emotions
  
  - e. Body
  
4. Because of our past experiences or present circumstances, some of the five areas of blessedness may be difficult for you to believe. What conflicting evidence in your life hinders you from trusting God's Word regarding blessedness/happiness in your life?

5. According to the author, what is the main point of Psalm 1? What reasons does he give for his conclusion?
6. What is your reaction to the notion that God's Word is all about living a happy, successful life? What is true about this statement? What is distorted about this statement? How does the gospel inform our understanding of living the happy, successful life?
7. On page 72 the author writes, "Success is the rule for those who live in keeping with God's principles." What are these principles of God he refers to, and where are they found?
8. How are the Psalms like Proverbs? Does this give you more or less confidence in God's promises for happiness and success in life for the righteous?

### ***Digging Deeper***

When explaining how the law applies to the Christian, usually the first passage that comes to mind for many is Romans 6:14 ("you are not under law but under grace"). But this is not the only statement the Bible says about the believer's relationship to the law of God. Read the following Scripture passages and summarize them into a coherent view of the law of God for the Christian. Ps 119 (especially vv. 97-104); Mt 5:17-20; Acts 13:13-41; Rom 3:19-31; Rom 13 (especially vv. 8-10); 1 Cor 9:19-27; Gal 2-5 (especially 5:1-18); Jas 2:8-13.

### ***Application***

Ask yourself why is it that the default summary of our understanding of the law is so often Romans 6:14? What does this reveal about our hearts? About your own heart? Repent of any sin revealed in your heart and pray to the Lord to give you faith to believe the message of the Psalms?