

The enemy wants nothing more than for us to be totally distracted from a life of seeking after God. The Lord would prefer us to seek Him ourselves through His Spirit and in His Word, but when we get sidetracked, He helps us gain a seeking spirit with...

A View from "Wit's End"

Learning to See the Unfailing Love and Wonderful Deeds of the Lord in times of personal crisis.

Psalms 107:27 (NIV) *27 They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their wits' end.*

Introduction:

- A. **Have you ever been to "wit's end"?** *(It is a place God's Love for you will take you when you need to come 'home'.)*
- My wife and I have moved many places. But we have visited 'wit's end' more than any other place!
 - It's always a personal place: "...they were at **THEIR** wit's end."
 - It is a place "having lost or exhausted any possibility or perceiving or thinking of a way out"
 - It is the END OF ALL HUMAN ABILITY AND RESOURCES.
 - People want to buy property here and live, but God owns the town and has no residential property for sale. Wit's end is just a place to visit, not live!
 - It is a scenic town with a scenic lookout over God's Glory!
 - Like the place God took Moses: Exod 33:22
- B. **The Analogy of sailors at sea in a storm: a view of life in this world.** *(Psalms 107:23-27)*

- Wit's end here was on a ship's deck in a storm tossed sea and no hope of survival!
- Note: God brought them here to encounter the end of themselves!
- vs 23-27
- A fitting picture of life in this world.
- Maybe your wits end is not on the deck of a ship but in a job, a relationship, a problem.

- C. **Very often our "desired Haven" (v.30) is only reached through a visit to Wit's End (v. 27-31).**
- Our cry to the LORD at wit's end will transport us to 'desired haven' by God's divine working.
 - God is like solid land under us after a few months out at sea in a storm!
 - It is often through trials that we find our renewed faith in God rise up.
 - 1 Peter 1:6-7 (NIV) *"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."*
- D. **Psalms 107 overview: God's Love and God's Works.**
- Sandwiched between stories of men's failures and trials, is a recurring theme or anthem in this psalm:
 - (v. 8, 15, 21, 31) *"Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men."*
 - Unfailing love in four groups of people: v 1-32
 - His wonderful deeds: v 33-43

E. **107:43. Gain the wisdom in this psalm. There is a major focus for life we are called to consider here: "The great Love of the Lord".**

- Wit's End is to bring us to the only proper way to INTERPRET life: Look to God's Love and His Works!

Ground:

God's Love and His Works towards us form the foundation of our loving pursuit of Him and our faith in Him.

Path:

When we lose sight of these, God allows us to come to places where we become so desperate for Him that we again cry out to know Him...

Fruit:

And we experience the 7 blessings of being brought to our Wit's End....

1. Learn how to avoid tragedy: stay focused on God's goodness and steadfast love.

Psalms 107:1 (NIV) *¹Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.*

A. **We can avoid a trip to "Wit's End", by staying focused on God's Goodness and Love for us.**

- Rom 8:28 – "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."
- Isaiah 48:17-18 - ¹⁷This is what the LORD says— your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who

directs you in the way you should go. ¹⁸If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your righteousness like the waves of the sea.

B. **This psalm provides a life-focus for our soul throughout life's ups and downs:**

1. The Goodness of the Lord (His motives)
2. The Love of the Lord (His actions)
 - Our faith in Him rests on these two things
 - Gal 5:6 – faith works through love
 - Good things happen to those who believe that God is Good and that He loves them.

C. (v.2) **"Let the redeemed of the Lord say this!"**

- This is to be our daily confession about God's dealing with us.
- Power is in your mouth: what ever you say continually gets magnified inside you.
- Job: Job 1:20-22!
- Habakkuk 3:17-18
- Keeping the answer in your mouth is the key to solving any any problem.

D. **Your spirit is designed to magnify and produce more of what you speak into it.**

- So only talk about the Goodness of God and His Love.
- 107:22 – Sacrifice Thank offerings!
- 107:43 – Consider the Love (*God only intended you to encounter life and think of things through the screen of His love for you!*)

E. **The safe way to stay in this world: Keep yourself in the Love of God! (Jude 21)**

- This is the reason God sends us to wit's end. We get out of His saving, redeeming, sanctifying, transforming love and he sends us to experience life without it... And we run home!

2. Develop an anthem in your spirit to God's Unfailing Love and Wonderful Deeds for all life offers:

Psalms 107:8 (NIV) ⁸Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men,

- A. **This repeated phrase in the psalm is God's repeated answer to all life's problems!**
- God repeats to keep us from defeats
 - God keeps things simple and clear. Man likes complex and deep.
 - 2 Chron 20:1-25: Jehoshaphat's victory by focus on the goodness and love of the Lord.
- B. **The Unfailing Love and the Wonderful works of God are all already established for us in Christ.** *(Just abide in Him).*
- His love is there: 1 John 4:9
 - His works are there: 1 Cor. 1:30; Eph 2:4-6
- C. **In your spirit lies all the works and love of God towards you in Christ.**
- This is the anthem your spirit wants to proclaim continuously.

- Your spirit's life is in these two things: God's Love and God's works. This is the "environment" of your spirit.

D. Does your spirit have theme, banner and song?

- Psalm 60:4; Song 2:4; Isaiah 12:2
- Many Christians have no "theme" in their spirit from God. As a result they are without an anchor in trials.
- Let it be the UNFALING LOVE and WONDERFUL WORKS of the Lord!
- A spirit without a theme has no banner and no song!
- A standard bearer in an army line.

3. God leads us to "wit's end" to find our "desired haven".

Psalms 107:27-30

- A. **God takes us to wits end to get a better view of His Glory.**
- 1 Peter 4:12-13
 - **1 Peter 4:12 (NIV)** ¹²Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you.
- B. **There is an exceeding treasure in your heart, but you need the clear vision of wits end to see it.** *(2 Cor. 4:6-11).*
- Wit's end clears out all the other things we are looking at so that there is nothing left but God to look at.
 - Then we find the hidden treasure within.

- C. **When we come to an end in ourselves, we can begin to live in God.**
- The “end” in wits end is an end to our human ability and resources. Then we look to God alone.
- D. **Wit’s End is never meant to be a lodging place, but just a gate.**

4. God has a redemptive history with people He leads to Wit’s End.

Psalms 107:6 - “Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble and he delivered them from their distress.”

- A. **A brief History of Israel at Wit’s End:**
1. **Pi-Hatroth** (*between Migdol and the sea*)
 - Between Pharaoh’s army and an impassible sea
 - Ex 14:1-2; 10-12
 - Deut 1:31-33
 - The alternative way to not go through “wits end” to “desired haven” is to go through the WORD OF GOD.
 2. **Marah** (bitter waters)
 - The pillar of cloud led them here
 - Exod 15:22-24
 - God already had a plan to make the bitter waters sweet!
 - How many years did God grow that tree right beside the bitter waters to await sweeten it for Israel!

- That tree is the cross of Christ and it has made our bitter life sweet!
3. **Rephidim** (driest place in the desert!)
 - (Exod 17:1-4)
 - He led them here (v.1)
 - He made them come to thirst (v.3) (Wit’s end)
 - They ran to Moses for help instead of God.
 - But God had a plan here too: He opened a reservoir of water which provided water for Israel for 38 years!

B. **7 groups of people God specializes in helping at Wit’s End...**

1. Those wandering (v.3-4)
2. Those in prisons of sin (v. 10)
3. Those without sense (v.17)
4. Those lost at sea (v.23)
5. The hungry (v. 36)
6. The needy (v.41)
7. The wise (v. 43)

C. **Every great servant of God has been led to Wit’s End.**

- Abraham, Moses, Jacob, Joseph, Daniel, etc.
- God has to take all of us to the end of the tree of knowledge so that we come fully to depend on the tree of life.

5. The 7 blessings that God performs at wit’s end.

Psalm 107:41-42 – “But he lifted the needy out of their affliction and increased their families like flocks. The upright see and rejoice, but all the wicked shut their mouths.

A. **At the moment we turn and cry out to the Lord, God’s begins to show His power at Wit’s End.**

- (v.19) *“Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress.”*
- Your deliverance is a cry away. Your healing is a cry away. Your redemption is a cry away.... But a cry after visiting wit’s end.
- Eg. Hezekiah: **Isaiah 38:1-5**

B. **The Activities of God at Wit’s End:**

1. Gathers (v.3-5)
2. Bringing out and setting free (v. 14-16)
3. Heals (v.20)
4. Stills the storm and Guided home (v.29-30)
5. Turning (v.35)
6. Blessing (v. 37-38)
7. Increasing (v.41)

C. **Wit’s End means the Spirit’s Beginning!**

- We can get out of our mind and into our spirit:
Eph 2:23

6. Christ I revealed to us at Wit’s End as the Love of God and the Work of God towards us.

Mark 1:9-11 *“At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”*

A. **At the Jordan (Death), Jesus was revealed from Heaven to John.**

- Mark 1:9-11
- Wit’s End is a death to ourselves and resurrection in Christ.
- God is always taking us to our “Jordan” to find the Father’s revelation of Christ as our answer.

B. **God always brings us to the end of ourselves to reveal Christ as the Solution.**

- We must remember John the Baptist’s words: **John 3:30** – *“He must become greater; I must become less.”*

C. **Our life is like a Boat caught in a storm: But God will reveal Christ at our side as our savior.**

- Acts 27:13-25. Storm at sea with Paul.
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D. **God will Give us fresh Vision of Christ at Wit’s End.**

- Luke 24:13-35. Vision on road to Emmaus
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Conclusion:

What to do at Wit’s End

1. **Trust** – God always knew what He was going to do to get you out: reveal more of Christ.
2. **Know** – He has an escape planned before you got there.
3. **Believe** – He has prepared what you need in terms of resources 2,000 years ago in Christ.
4. **Pursue** – Every person in Wit’s End got out the same way: Crying out to the Lord and praising Him for His love and Works.