

A person with a backpack stands on the peak of a rocky mountain, arms raised in triumph. The background shows a vast valley with green fields, a small town, and distant mountains under a blue sky with white clouds.

*"Praise the Lord,
oh my soul"*

A Study in Psalms

Embracing Biblical Womanhood Conference 2024

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The Pursuit of Wisdom

Psalm 19

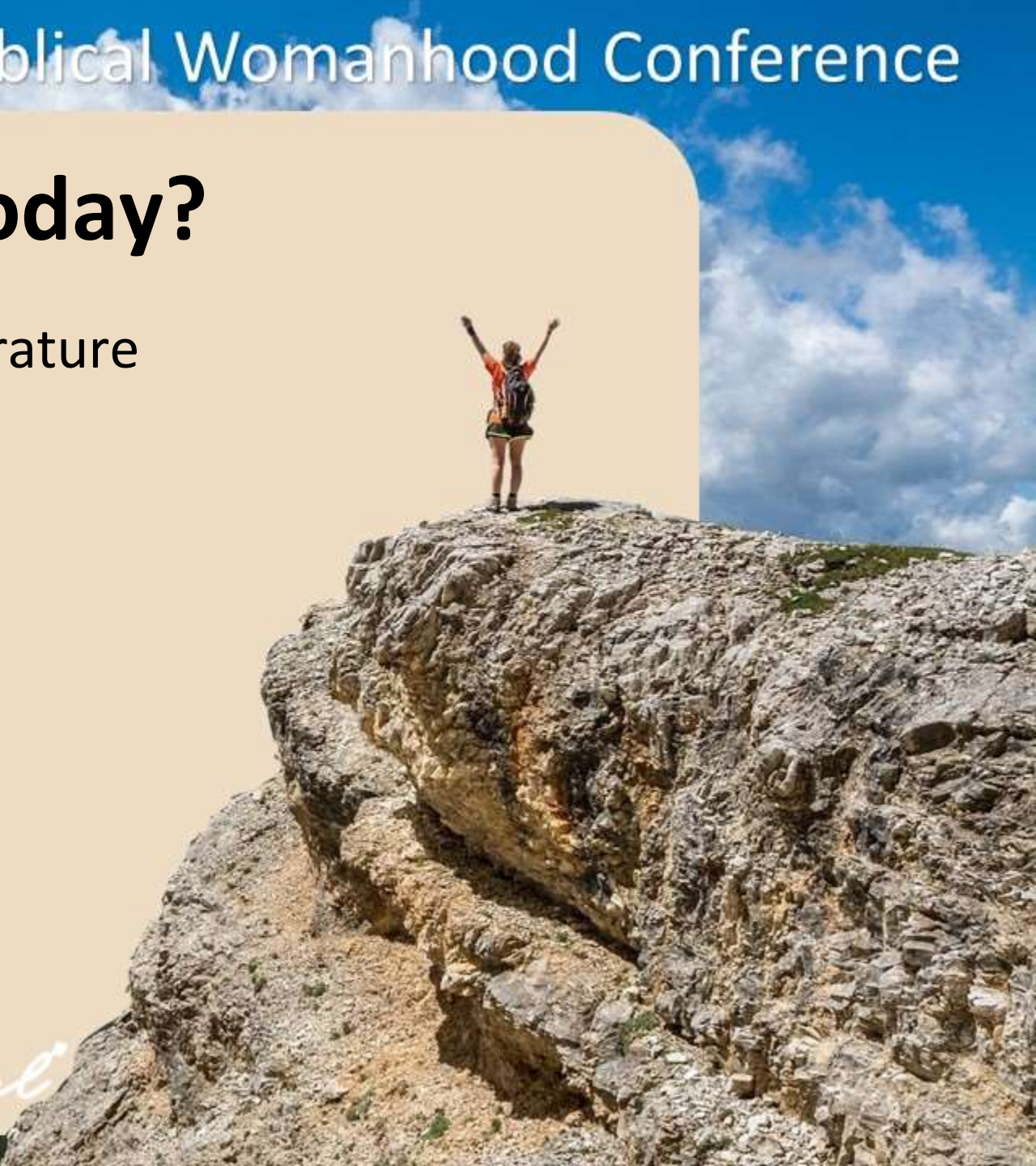
"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"



Where are we going today?

- I. The Descriptives of Wisdom Literature
 - I. The Giver of Wisdom
 - I. The Source of Wisdom
 - I. The Value of Wisdom
 - I. The Application of Wisdom

"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"



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Introduction to Wisdom Literature

"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"



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What characterizes a wisdom psalm?

Reflections on wisdom, the law, and the fate of the righteous and the wicked

30 chapters in Psalms contain wisdom elements.

How often does the Bible speak of wisdom?

“Wisdom” - 213 times in 28 books, “wise” - 187 times

“wisely,” - 7 times, “wiser” - 8 times

“understanding” - 125 times, “understand” - 129 times

“knowledge” - 161 times, “insight” - 15 times

“discern” - 15 times, “discernment” - 15 times

Which books of the Bible speak most directly about wisdom?

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, James

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What is the history of Psalm 19?

The author: David

The significance of the timing: Written at the end of David's life, shortly after his charges to Israel and to Solomon in I Chronicles 28, the words of this Psalm contain the collective observations and summation of his life. This psalm expresses the heart of David, who has experienced the highest highs and the lowest lows.

"I have found in David the son of Jesse
'a man after my heart,
who will do all my will.'"
(Acts 13:22b)

"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"



What is the poetic style of this psalm?

- Hebrew Poetry, is a style of writing that often builds line upon line in a seconding sequence that may be parallel, synonymous, or antithetical. It contains both literal and figurative examples.
- These passages are designed to be read slowly, having your vision broadened and your perception deepened.
- Psalm 19 begins on a cosmic level and ends in the depths of the human heart.

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What is wisdom?

Wisdom is learning and applying God's truth to every situation in life, choosing the best means to achieve the highest goal.

Knowledge: the power to perceive objects and collect information; independent of intelligence

Understanding: insight into the true nature of things

“The knowledge of the Holy One is insight.” (Proverbs 9:10b)

“For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.” (Proverbs 2:6)

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What is wisdom?

Discernment: to see the difference between two things; empowered by the Holy Spirit with the power to reason rightly concerning the perceived and to form right decisions accordingly

Application: intentionally responding and judging correctly; following the best course of action based on knowledge and understanding

“The wisdom of the prudent is to discern his way.” (Proverbs 19:4)

“...Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:8b-10)

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What is wisdom?

Spiritual wisdom is godly wisdom, and it directly contrasts worldly wisdom.

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than men...”
(I Corinthians 1:25)

“Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic...But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.” (James 3:13-17)

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Psalm 19

"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"

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The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.

Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.

Their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.
In them he has set a tent for the sun,

which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

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The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple;

The precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure,
enlightening the eyes;

The fear of the LORD is clean,
enduring forever;
the rules of the LORD are true,
and righteous altogether.

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More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can discern his errors?
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me!
Then shall I be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

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Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"

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The Giver of Wisdom is on Display (1-6)

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims His handiwork.

Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.

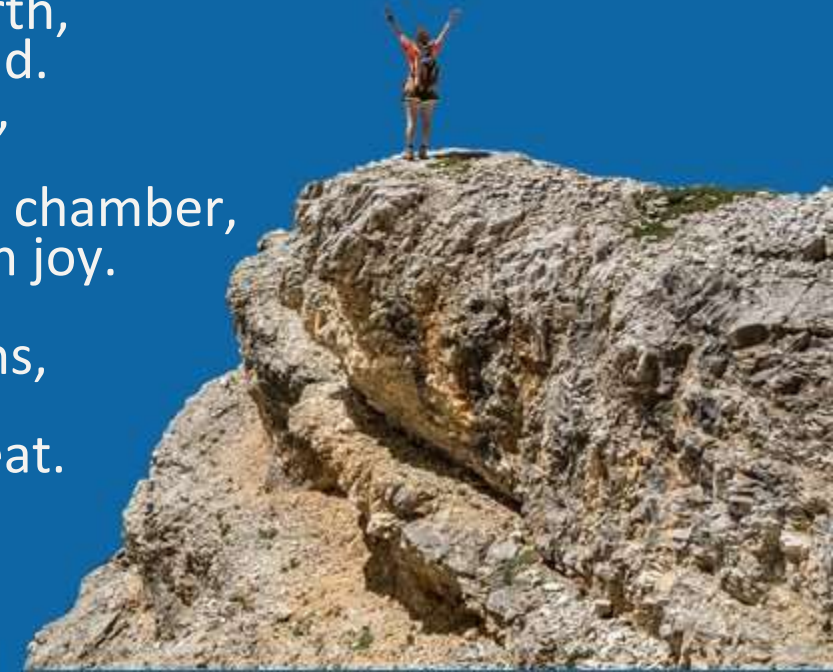
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"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"

Creation points us to the Creator.

Creation declares, proclaims, pours forth, and displays.

It is unmistakable, untiring, and understandable.

Creation is God's general revelation of Himself in the sky - available to all.



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"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"

"For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For His invisible attributes, namely his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So that they are without excuse."

Romans 1:19-20

In Romans 10:18, Paul quotes Psalm 19:4, as he emphasises that people have heard of the Lord in whom they are to believe - even if they have no preacher.



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"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"

Wisdom existed before creation.

"The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His work, the first of His acts of old. Ages ago I was set up, before the beginning of the earth...Before the mountains had been shaped... When he established the heavens...then I was beside Him... and I was daily His delight." (Proverbs 8:22ff)

The LORD is Wisdom. It is one of His attributes; it has never been separated from Him.



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"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"

How does creation relate to wisdom?

An awe of creation rightly leads us to an awe of the Creator.

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy one is insight.”
(Proverbs 9:10)

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge.” (Proverbs 1:7)

“The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom.” (Proverbs 15:33a)



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"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"

The fear of the Lord is a human response that is fostered by His work and His word.

Face to face with God's power and majesty should humble us as we come face to face with our humanity.

"... and humility comes before honor."
(Proverbs 15:33b)



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The Source of Wisdom is Revealed (7-9)

The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple;

The precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure,
enlightening the eyes;

The fear of the LORD is clean,
enduring forever;
the rules of the LORD are true,
and righteous altogether.

"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"



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“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence.” (II Peter 1:3)

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The Name

The Character

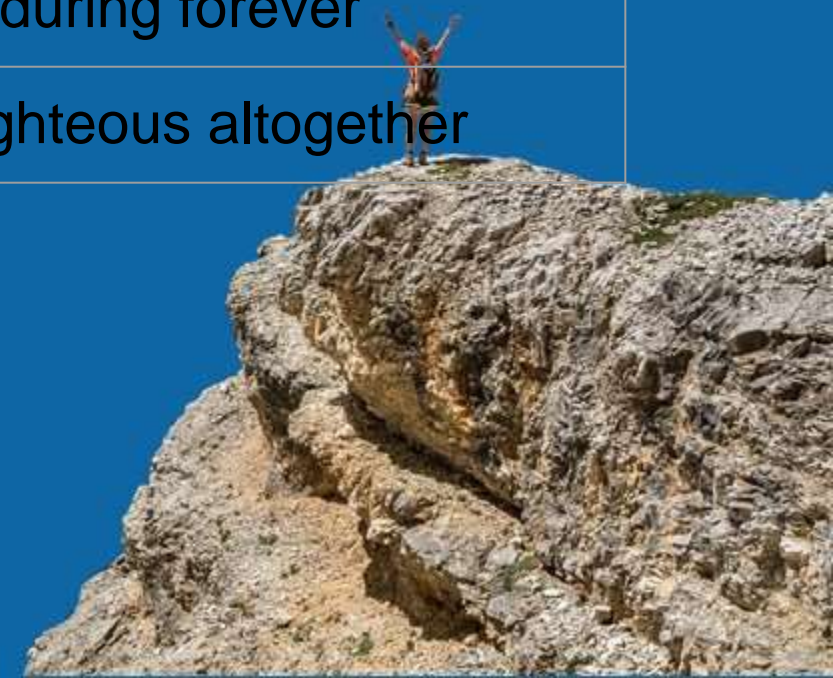
The Effect

The law	Perfect	Reviving the soul
The testimony	Sure	Making WISE the simple
The precepts	Right	Rejoicing the heart
The commandment	Pure	Enlightening the eyes
The fear	Clean	Enduring forever
The rules	True	Righteous altogether

“of the LORD”

YHWH reveals himself, through special revelation, in His preserved Word, the Bible.

“Praise the Lord, oh my soul”



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The Name

Law: instructions, teachings

The purpose of the law is to direct, put straight, guide

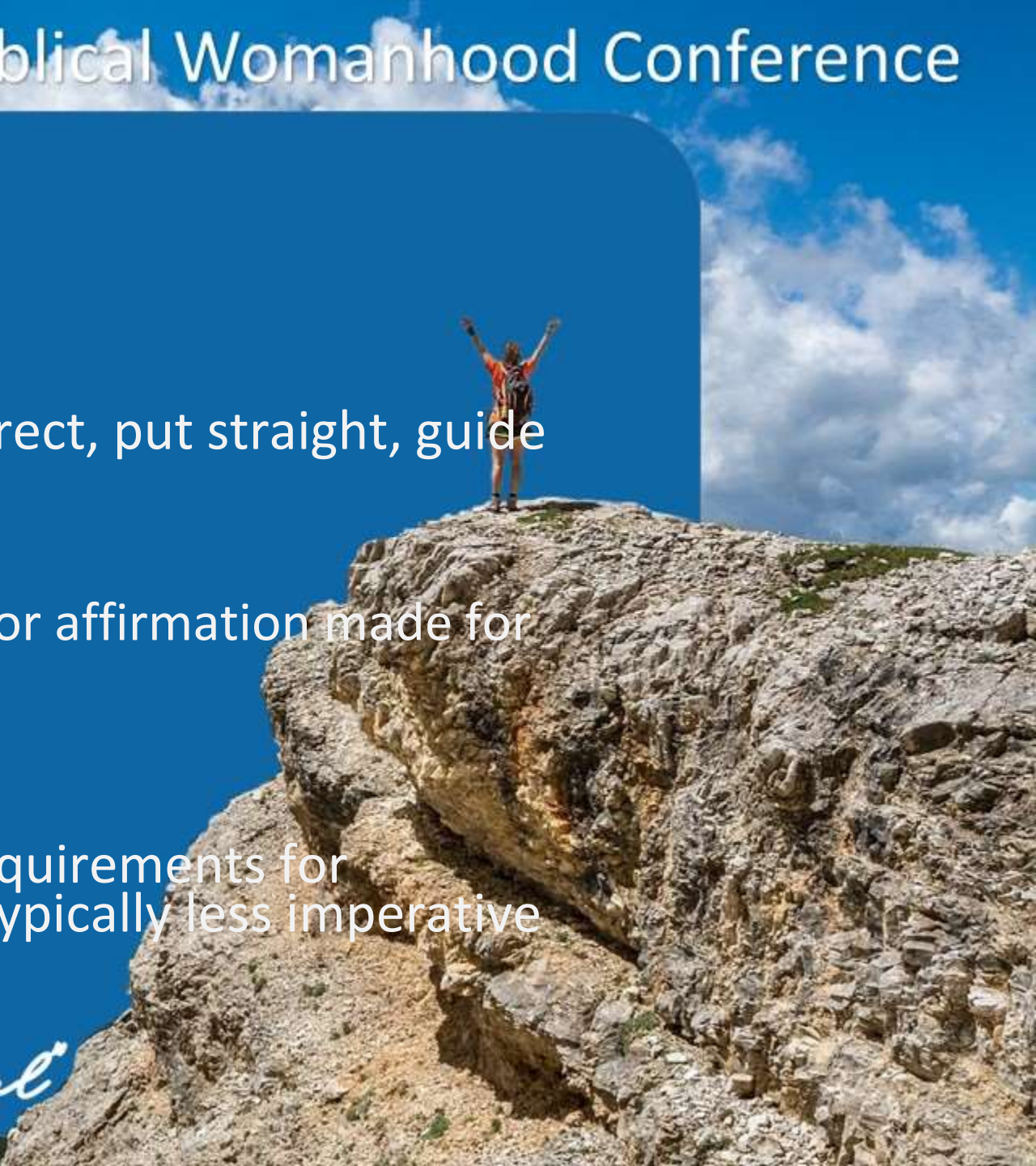
Testimony: decree, statutes, witness

A legal term, a solemn declaration or affirmation made for the purpose of proving some fact

Precepts: orders, rules set down

A concrete expression of God's requirements for righteousness, a principle that is typically less imperative and more informative

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The Name

Commandment: the commands to fear the Lord

The authoritative, direct orders for subordinates

Fear: reverential awe, worshipful obedient respect, submission

Study and meditation on His word births holy respect and awe for His character and standards.

Observed in Abraham, Joseph, Samuel, Obadiah, Nehemiah, and Cornelius

Rules: judgments, decrees, ordinances, decisions

A verdict, a deciding in a legal dispute or case

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The Character

Perfect: flawless, whole, complete, sufficient, lacking nothing, comprehensive, all-sided

“There is nothing essential for man to know that may not be found there; there is nothing that would lead man to error or sin.” (Barnes)

Sure: trustworthy, reliable, steadfast, dependable, certain

True in principle and verifiable in the situations of life; the same root word as “amen” - so be it.

“The perfection of the Gospel converts, but its sureness edifies.” (Spurgeon)

Right: fair, correct, in accordance with what is just and good, appropriate, fitting

To make straight, smooth, upright, and level; not crooked

As a physician giving right medicine or a counsellor right advice

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The Character

Pure: clear, radiant, bright, untainted with evil or error

“No mixture of error defiles it, no stain of sin pollutes it, it is unadulterated, undiluted.” (Spurgeon)

Clean: uncontaminated, free from impurity, undefiled

“It is clean in and of itself and it cleanses out the love of sin, sanctifying the heart in which it reigns.” (Spurgeon)

True: firm, reliable, corresponding to and accurately reflecting reality, completely fair, absolutely just

Because of the fixed character of God, Who knows all things completely

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The Effect

Reviving: converting, refreshing, restoring, renewing, transforming, preserving one's life

"He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness." Psalm 23:3

Making wise the simple: impart wisdom to the inexperienced; a proper understanding of life, God, self, and others

The simple are those who are gullible, easily susceptible, weak-willed and irresponsible, but still correctible; they are morally naive and young, but still learning.

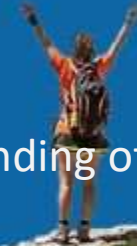
Wisdom comes with openness and humility.

Rejoicing the heart: making the heart glad, a sense of serenity, giving well-being, bringing tranquility

The heart is the control center, for out of it flow the issues of life. (Proverbs 4:23)

"Your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart." (Jeremiah 15:16)

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The Effect

Enlightening the eyes: giving insight for living, making clear and lighting one's way; the eye is the window to the soul

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ... may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, having the eyes of your heart enlightened..." (Ephesians 1:15-16)

"For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching a light..." (Proverbs 6:23)

"Whether dim with sorrow or with sin." (Spurgeon)

Enduring forever: permanent, unchanging, relevant, up to date, never outdated or in need of alteration

Corrupt things decay, but pure things endure. (Matthew 5 & 24)

How can this be true? Absolute truth is grounded in the immutable, character of the unchanging God.

Righteous altogether: each one is fair, absolutely just, an ethical and moral standard which is the nature and will of God

"For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is to us, whenever we call upon Him? And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?" (Deuteronomy 4:7-8)

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"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"

"The multifaceted, all-sufficient Word revives those depressed by doubts, makes wise the unskilled, rejoices the lover of truth, strengthens the desponding, provides permanent principles of conduct, and by God's grace brings a rich reward." (Jamieson)

Conversion - Wisdom - Joy



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The Value of Wisdom is Defined (10-13)

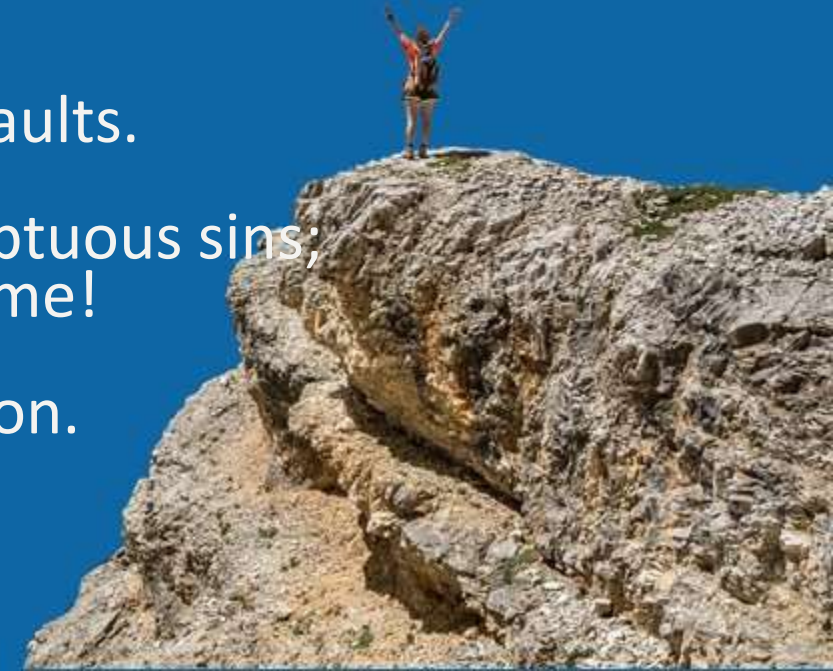
More to be desired are they than gold,
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sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can discern his errors?
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me!
Then shall I be blameless,
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"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"

Value: Possession

"More desirable than gold," which was the most expensive substance of that time, God's Word and the wisdom found therein is enriching to the soul. It is treasure waiting to be discovered.

-Job 28: 15-19; Psalm 119: 72, 127;
Proverbs 8:10,11, 19; 16:16

As a prospector would give up everything to set out on a journey to hit the mother lode, as an investor has a system to check the market looking for his next big gain, we must take pleasure in, covet, passionately desire, and intensely long for nuggets of wisdom.



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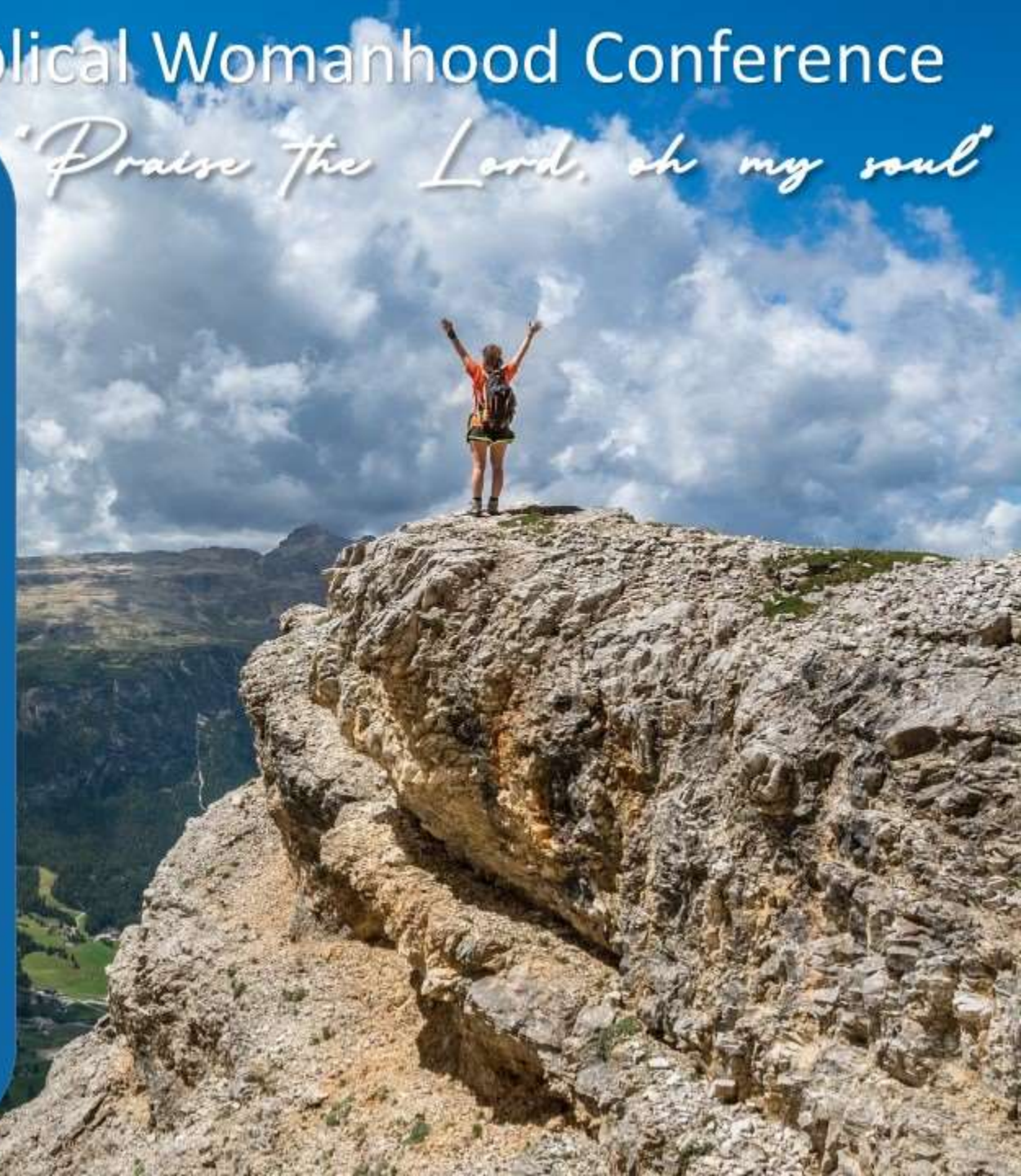
"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"

Value: Pleasures

"Sweeter than honey" which was the sweetest substance of that time and was used for medicinal purposes; it symbolized abundance and prosperity.

As honey satisfies the body, the Word satisfies the soul. It counteracts the bitterness of life and makes it sweet.

"My son, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste. Know that wisdom is such to your soul; if you find it, there will be a future, and your hope will not be cut off."
(Proverbs 24:13,14)



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"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"

Value: Protection

The warning stated in "By them is your servant warned" indicates teaching and enlightening by cautioning.

God's servants were those who sought to do his will - David, Moses, Joshua...

"In keeping of them" is a picture of one on guard, watching carefully over. The Word of God keeps us as we keep it, applying its wisdom.



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Value: Profit

"There is great reward" reminds us that "He who reveres the commandment will be rewarded." (Proverbs 13:13), and that "He rewards those who diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:4)

"The reward for humility and fear of the Lord is riches and honor and life," (Proverbs 22:4), and both are a required response to God's revelation of Himself if one desires to be characterized by wisdom.

This reward transcends our temporal life, it is ultimately an escape from the evil that destroys. "...Godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life, and for the life that comes." (1 Timothy 4:8)



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"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"

Value: Purification

"Declare me innocent" is a picture of acquittal and cleansing. It is a picture of Christ's righteousness replacing our filthy rags. We have been set free and released from obligation, accusation, and guilt.

"Let them not have dominion" reminds us that "Sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it." (Genesis 4)

"Blameless" and "innocent" reflect not the perfection of legalism, but rather integrity of heart that is born out of our fear of the LORD and our loving response to the great love He has shown us.



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"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"

Value: Purification

"Hidden faults" are the secrets of the heart, a heart that is by nature deceitful and wicked (Jeremiah 17:9); they are not willful or intentional, but rather are often products of ignorance or inattention. However, they are not secret to God, "Would God not discover this? For He knows the secrets of the heart." (Psalm 44:21)

"Your heart and conscience cannot guide, for they are deceived by sin inside; but if you want to see what's true, the Word of God will mirror you." (Hess)



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"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"

Value: Purification

"For those which I have committed and have forgotten;

for those which I have not repented;

from those which I have committed in my heart, but have not been brought to act in my life;

from those which I have committed without knowing they were sins, sins of ignorance;

and from those which I have committed in private, for which I should blush and be confounded if they were made public."
(Clarke)

It is the hidden sin that can weaken the foundation of a person's character and be the cause of his downfall.



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"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"

Value: Purification

"Presumptuous sin" is willful, proud, arrogant and haughty. It is bold, confident to excess, rash, and overstepping boundaries.

It is crafty (Exodus), defiant (Numbers), and results from not listening (Deuteronomy).

It is indulging the flesh, despising authority, daring, and self-willed - it does not tremble. (II Peter 2)

It is reflected in the life of one who goes on sinning willfully after receiving knowledge of the truth. (Hebrews 10:26-31)

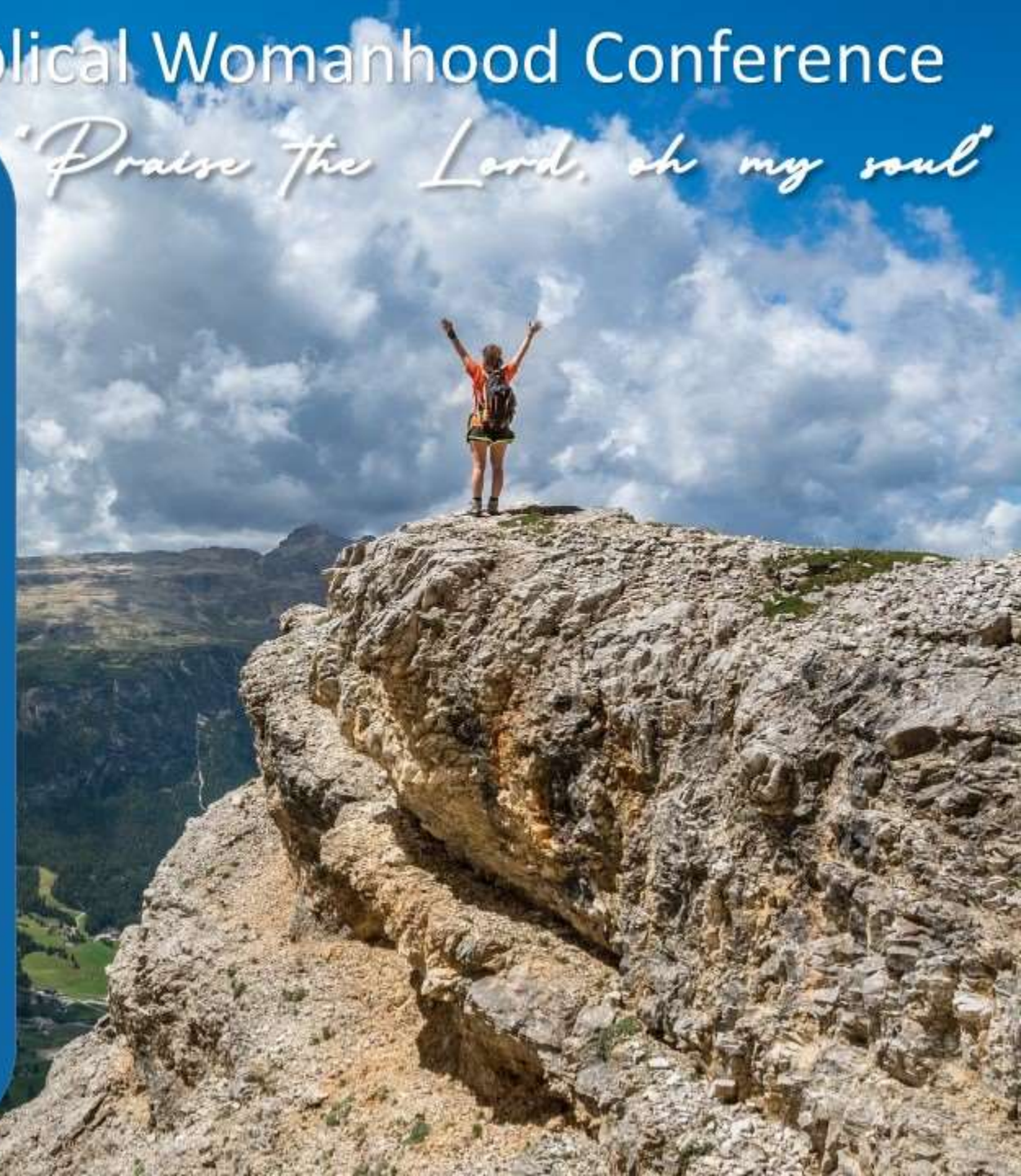


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"The clearer our view of the law, the more manifest our sins. Still, for its full effect we need divine grace to show us our faults, acquit us, restrain us from the practice, and free us from the power of sin. Thus only can our conduct be blameless and our words and thoughts acceptable to God."

(Jamieson, Faucet, Brown)



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The Application of Wisdom is Detailed (14)

Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"



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Let the words of my mouth; the meditation of my heart...

“Let” is an appeal directly to God. It is a petition for the power needed to apply the wisdom that has been revealed. It is a plea for grace to be, say, and do what is wise.

These two concepts , our words and our heart, are inextricably linked.

“How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.” (Matthew 12:34)

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Let the words of my mouth; the meditation of my heart...

Before wisdom can be heard and seen in us, we must cultivate the art of meditation - the words that we speak to ourselves, our internal musings.

“In meditation the heart assimilates it (the Word) and makes it a part of its own life... The meditation of the heart implies desire, acceptance, surrender, and love...The intellect gathers and prepares the food on which we are to feed. In mediation the heart takes it in and feeds on it.” (Murray)

“Let my mouth speak nothings but what is true, kind, profitable, and my heart meditate nothing but what is holy, pure, and chaste.” (Clarke)

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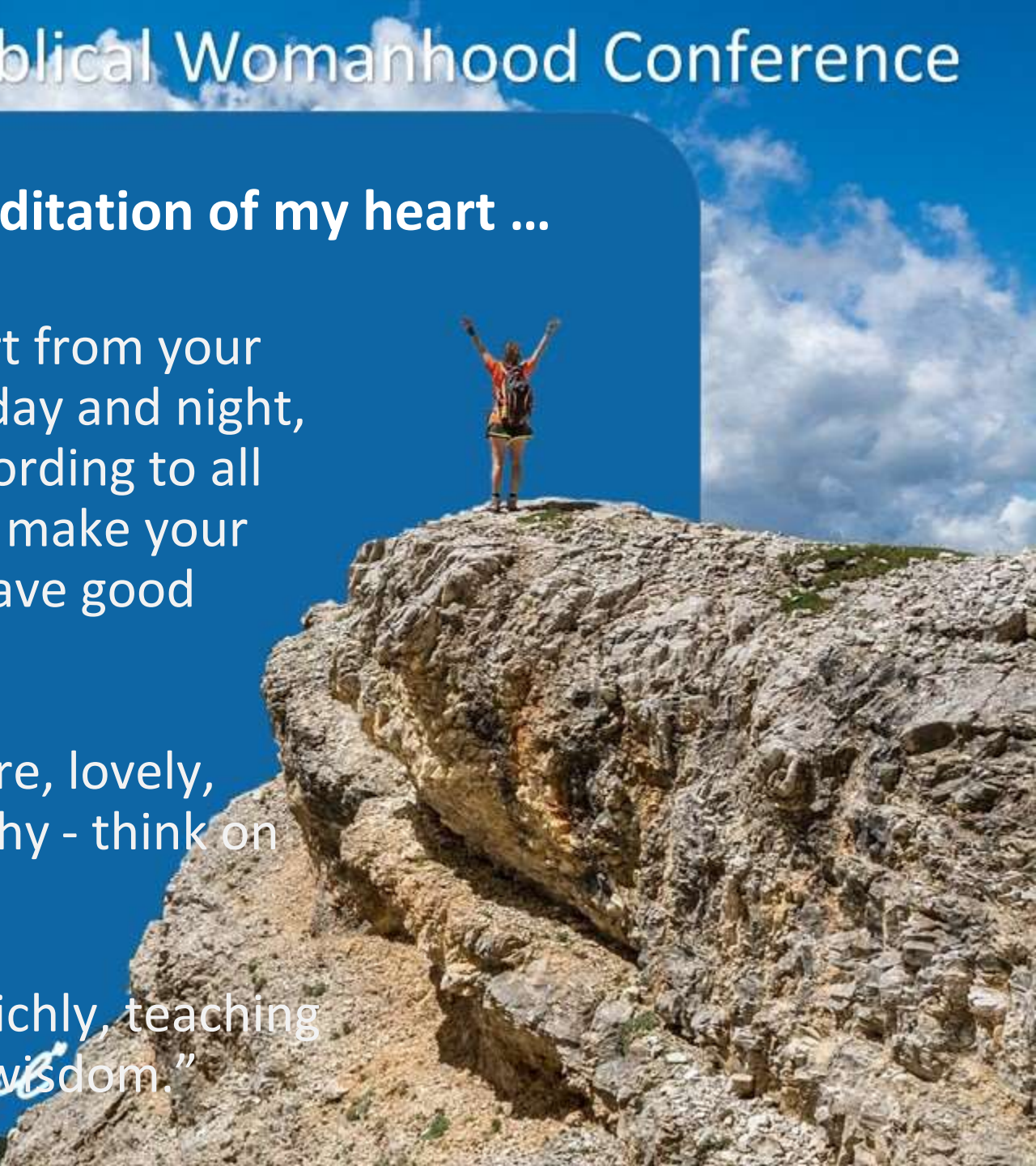
Let the words of my mouth; the meditation of my heart ...

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (Joshua 1:8)

Whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, praiseworthy - think on these things. (Phil. 4:8)

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom.”
(Colossians 3:16)

“Praise the Lord, oh my soul”



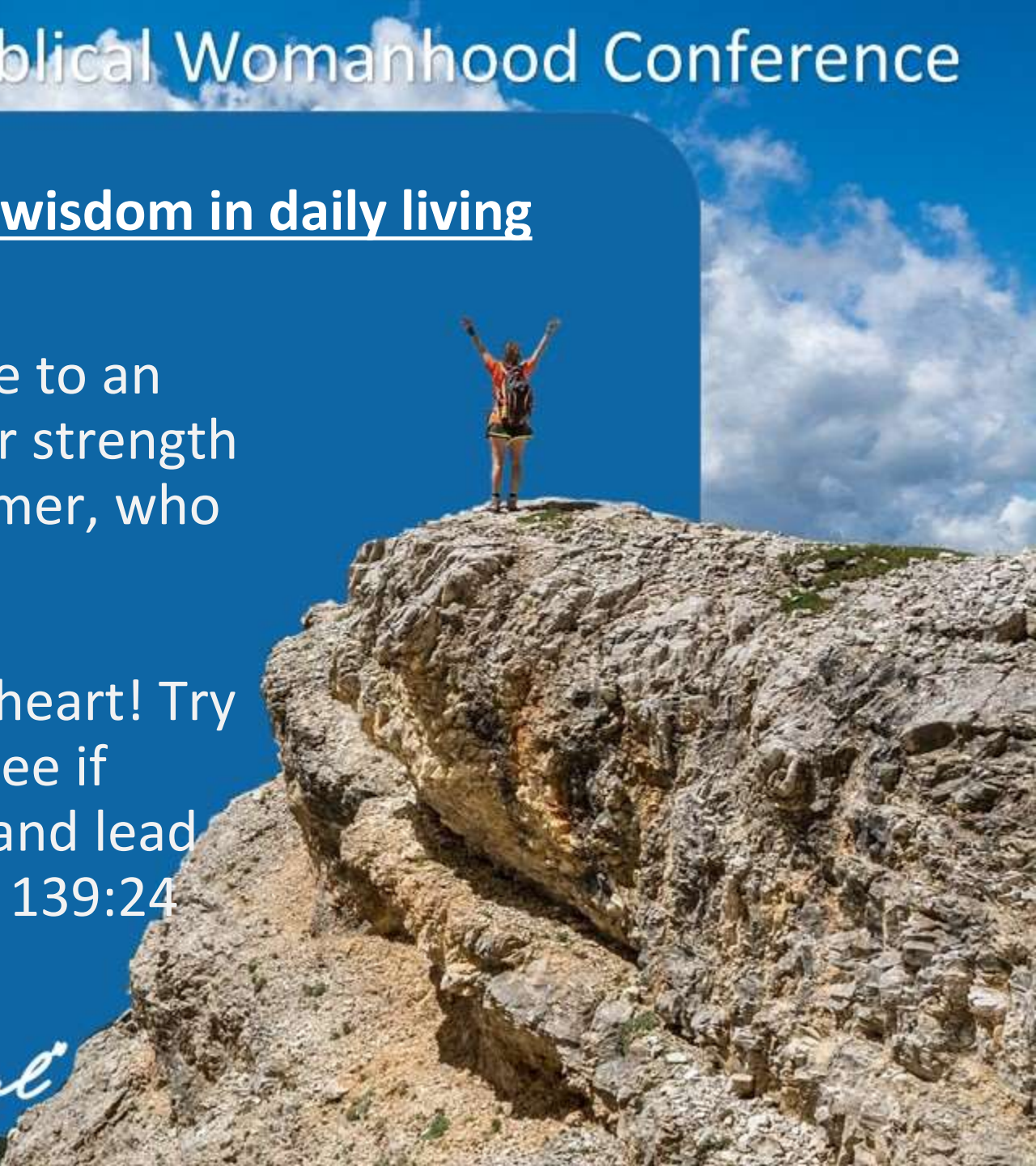
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The source of strength for applying wisdom in daily living

The plea of verse 14 is rightly made to an intimately known Rock, Who is our strength and helper, and a personal Redeemer, who buys back, saves, and restores.

“Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!” Psalm 139:24

“Praise the Lord, oh my soul”



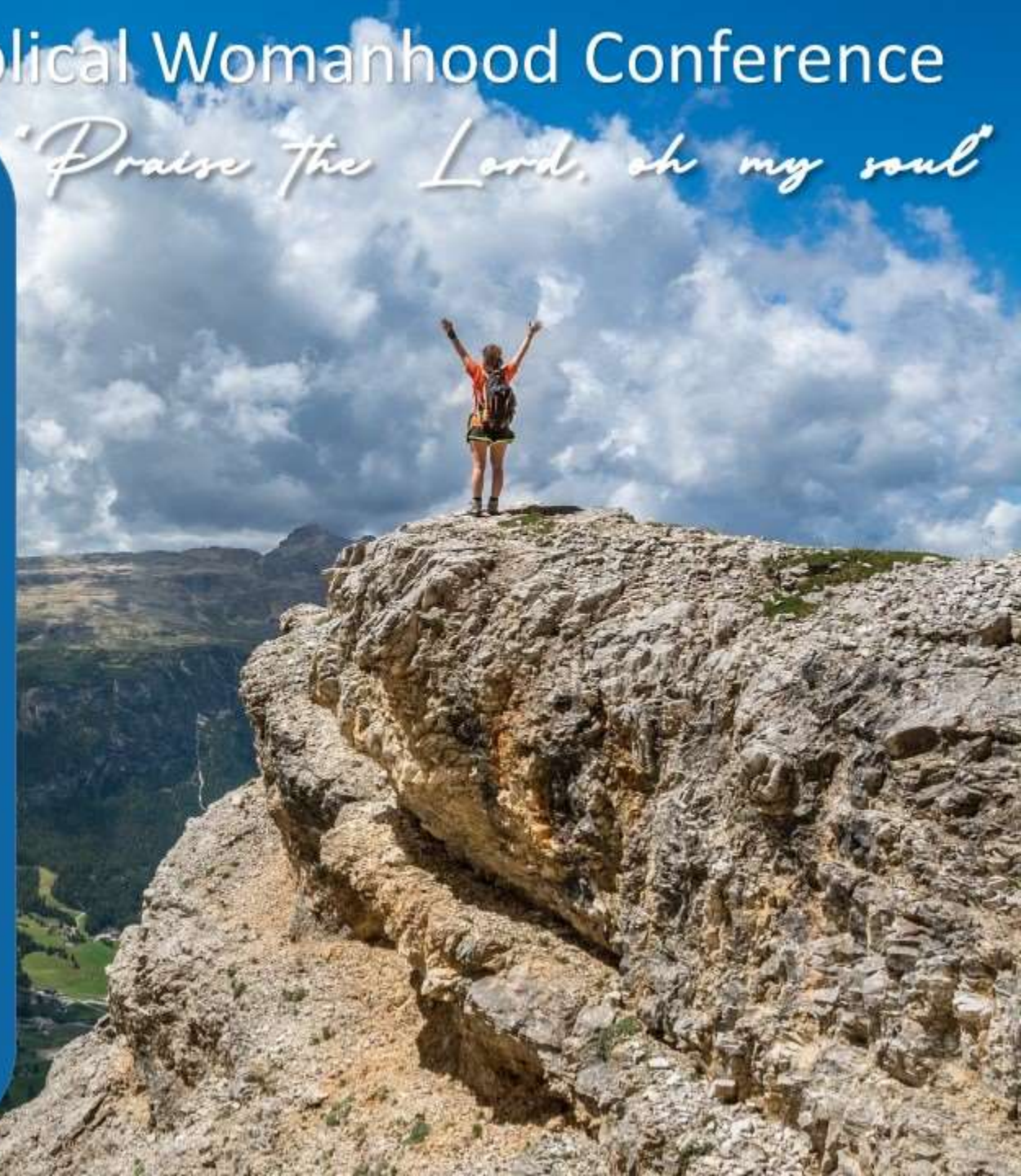
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"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"

What have I learned?

What can I live?

1. Am I living with an ever-present recognition of God in my life? Do I revere and fear the LORD? (Prov. 9:10)
1. Do I "treasure up" and meditate on the gift of God's Word? (Prov. 2:1)
1. Do I ask God to work powerfully, allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal the way in which I should go? (Jas. 1:5)
1. Are my thoughts, words, and actions pure? Peaceable? Gentle? Open to reason? Full of mercy and good fruit? Impartial? Sincere? (Jas. 3:17)



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Proverbs 2: 1-12

My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is shield to those who walk in integrity; guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of the saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you, delivering you from the way of evil.

"Praise the Lord, oh my soul"

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A Study in Psalms

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