

## Pastor's Weekly Devotional- July 14, 2016

### **“Sources of Comfort”**

William Cowper is the author of hymns like: “There is a Fountain Filled with Blood” and “O for a Closer Walk with God.” But those who were close to him knew that he was a very troubled person. Three times he attempted suicide. Twice he was pronounced insane.

How then could he have written such inspiring and wonderful hymns? Two things were the catalyst. The first was Christian friends. They encouraged him to trust God and supported him during the dark seasons of his life. The second was the Bible. Cowper wrote about finding comfort in Psalm 118:6 which states:

“The Lord is for me, so I will not be afraid.  
What can mere mortals do to me?”

After a bout with insanity in his twenties, Cowper found strength and comfort in Psalm 118 verse fourteen and eighteen as well.

The lessons we can learn from Cowper is twofold:

**First**, surround yourself with caring and encouraging people. Remove yourself from those who are negative. Faultfinders. Pessimistic. Judgmental.

**Second**, read the Bible. It is God's Word. It will help you. Encourage you. Guide you as it did to Cowper. Let me close with Cowper's view of the scriptures. He wrote:

*If you have the Word in your mouth only, it shall be taken from you.  
If you have it in your book only, you shall miss it when you need it most;  
but if you lay it in your heart, no enemy  
shall ever be able to take it away from  
you and you shall find it a  
comfortable treasure in your time of need.*

So, have fun reading God's Word and finding good Christian friends.

Have a blessed week!  
Pastor Sewdin