

Monday Evening Bible Reading Group: January 29th: Psalm 119 verses 49-56, 129-136 and 169-176 (No harm in reading the other verses of this very special Psalm!

Your Word Is a Lamp to My Feet

Navigating Life's Labyrinth: A Deep Dive into Psalm 119

Psalm 119 is a beautiful testament to the enduring power of God's word. Through highs and lows, the Psalmist clings to the wisdom of God's commands, finding comfort, guidance, and resilience therein. It implores us to immerse ourselves in God's statutes, finding in them a source of hope, strength, and direction.

Aleph (vv. 1-8)

Blessedness of those who walk in God's ways and statutes.

Beth (vv. 9-16)

The importance of God's Word in keeping one pure and dedicated.

Gimel (vv. 17-24)

Prayer for enlightenment and understanding; God's laws as a source of comfort amidst scorn.

Daleth (vv. 25-32)

A plea for strength during distress; commitment to God's paths.

He (vv. 33-40)

Prayer for understanding and the desire to seek God's precepts.

Waw (vv. 41-48)

Hope in God's salvation and proclamations of loyalty to His commandments... [The Psalm continues in this manner, emphasizing different aspects of the Psalmist's relationship with God's Word through each section.]

Taw (vv. 169-176)

Final prayer for deliverance, understanding, and a longing for God, just as a lost sheep seeks its shepherd.

Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible, is a profound and heartfelt discourse centered on the power, importance, and beauty of God's laws and statutes. It is an acrostic poem, with each section starting with a successive letter of the Hebrew alphabet. This literary masterpiece emphasizes the transformative impact of meditating on God's laws, offering wisdom and insight for every area of human life.

Themes

Love for God's law
Wisdom and understanding
Perseverance during trials
Desire for righteousness
Prayer and devotion

Topics

Following God's commandments
God's righteousness and faithfulness
Struggles and afflictions of the faithful
Hope in God's promises
God as a source of comfort and protection

People

The Psalmist
God

Locations

The psalm does not specify physical locations, rather, it speaks of the spiritual journey of the Psalmist in relation to God's law.

Section Summaries:

Aleph (Verses 1-8): The psalmist begins by blessing those who walk in the law of the Lord, highlighting the importance of wholehearted commitment to God's commandments.

Beth (Verses 9-16): The writer seeks purity through obedience to God's word and expresses the joy that comes from meditating on His statutes.

Gimel (Verses 17-24): The psalmist prays for understanding to comprehend God's commandments, and discusses the comfort found in them during times of affliction.

[...]: The pattern continues with each section reflecting on the power and significance of God's laws, the desire for righteousness, the strength found in God's promises during trials, and the continual conversation with God in prayer.

Bible Study Questions

1. What does the writer's reverence for God's laws reveal about their faith and understanding of God?
2. How do the various emotions expressed by the Psalmist reflect different aspects of human life?
3. How does Psalm 119 encourage you to approach trials and tribulations in your own life?
4. How does the Psalmist describe the impact of God's word in his life? What does this mean for us today?
5. How can we apply the Psalmist's desire for understanding in our own pursuit of wisdom?
6. What role does prayer play in the Psalmist's relationship with God?
7. How does the Psalmist depict the concept of hope?
8. Why do you think the psalmist has such a strong commitment to God's law?

9. How does the Psalmist's attitude towards God's law challenge our modern view of obedience and law?
10. What practical steps can we take to 'hide God's word in our heart' as expressed in verse 11?
11. In verse 37, the Psalmist asks God to turn his eyes away from worthless things; how can we apply this in our daily life?
12. How does Psalm 119 influence your understanding of the importance of God's commandments?
13. In what ways does Psalm 119 affirm the reliability and trustworthiness of God's promises?
14. How can the principles expressed in Psalm 119 guide our decision-making process in daily life?
15. What actions can we take to follow the Psalmist's example of continual meditation on God's laws?
16. How can the Psalmist's perseverance inspire you in the face of your personal struggles?
17. In what areas of your life do you need to pray for discernment as the Psalmist did in verse 66?
18. How can Psalm 119 be a source of comfort during difficult times?
19. How does the Psalmist's love for God's law shape his outlook on life and personal identity?
20. How can the lessons from Psalm 119 inspire us to a deeper relationship with God through the study and application of His laws?

Verses 49-56

Remember what you said to me, your servant—

I hang on to these words for dear life!

These words hold me up in bad times;

yes, your promises rejuvenate me.

The haters hate me without mercy,

but I don't budge from your revelation.

I watch for your ancient landmark words,

and know I'm on the right track.

But when I see the wicked ignore your directions,

I'm beside myself with anger.

I set your instructions to music

and sing them as I walk this pilgrim way.

I meditate on your name all night, GOD,

treasuring your revelation, O GOD.

Still, I walk through a rain of derision

because I live by your Word and counsel.

Verses 129-136

how could I help but obey?
Break open your words, let the light shine out,
let ordinary people see the meaning.
Mouth open and panting,
I wanted your commands more than anything.
Turn my way, look kindly on me,
as you always do to those who personally love you.
Steady my steps with your Word of promise
so nothing malign gets the better of me.
Rescue me from the grip of bad men and women
so I can live life your way.
Smile on me, your servant;
teach me the right way to live.
I cry rivers of tears
because nobody's living by your book!

Verses 169-176

Let my cry come right into your presence, GOD;
provide me with the insight that comes only from your Word.
Give my request your personal attention,
rescue me on the terms of your promise.
Let praise cascade off my lips;
after all, you've taught me the truth about life!
And let your promises ring from my tongue;
every order you've given is right.
Put your hand out and steady me
since I've chosen to live by your counsel.
I'm homesick, GOD, for your salvation;
I love it when you show yourself!
Invigorate my soul so I can praise you well,
use your decrees to put iron in my soul.
And should I wander off like a lost sheep—seek me!
I'll recognize the sound of your voice.

Peta has listed the words Commitment, Confidence, Obedience and Help