

Psalm 119: The WORD Of God.

The Psalmist was persecuted by men of rank and authority, who ridiculed his beliefs, seeking to put him to shame and make him give up his faith. But he strengthened himself by meditating on the Word of the Lord, which to him was his comfort, his prized possession, his rule of life, and his resource for strength - all of which drove him to desire it even more.

This Psalm is written in an acrostic (alphabetical) arrangement. In each paragraph (strophe) of eight verses each line begins with the same letter of the Hebrew alphabet. (The 22 strophes correspond to the 22 letters of the alphabet).

A. BLESSINGS OF OBEDIENCE (119:1-8)

119:1-8. Those who walk in wholehearted obedience **to the** Law are **blessed**. This prompted him to wish that he were more obedient in view of God's **commands** to follow His laws. So the psalmist vowed to give thanks **as** he learned more about God's **statutes**.

B. CLEANSING BY GOD'S WORD (119:9-16)

119:9-16. The psalmist declared that a person cleanses **his way (conduct)** by obeying God's Word (v. 9). The psalmist testified that he had internalized and rejoiced in God's Word so that he might be morally pure (vv. 10-14). He continually meditated in the Law (vv. 15-16).

C. APPRECIATION OF GOD'S WORD (119:17-24)

17-24. The psalmist asked God to **open his eyes** so that he could **see** the marvelous blessings of God in the **Word**. He hungered for the Word. Because God curses the wicked who disobey Him, he prayed that the Lord would remove those who reproached him. In contrast with them, he meditated on and delighted in God's Law. Frequently in this psalm he referred to the wicked and those who oppressed him.

D. PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING (119:25-32)

25-32. The psalmist prayed for quickening since he was laid low. He then asked God for understanding, strengthening, and keeping (vv. 26-29). When God gave him understanding, he would comply because he treasured the **Law**.

E. LOYALTY TO GOD'S WORD (119:33-40)

33-40. The psalmist declared his loyalty to the Word, which he observed with his whole heart. He prayed that the Lord would turn him away from covetousness and vanity. He desired God to confirm His ordinances to him.

F. SALVATION THROUGH GOD'S WORD (119:41-48)

41-48. He called on God to deliver him through His love and His **Word**. Then he would have an answer for his enemy. He prayed (and affirmed) that **the Word** would continue to be his pattern of life. He delighted in God's **commandments** and loved them.

G. HOPE FROM GOD'S WORD (119:49-56)

49-56. Declaring his hope in the Word, which renews **life**, he decried the proud who scorned his faith and hated the Law. He sang about and meditated on the Word.

H. OBEDIENCE TO GOD'S WORD (119:57-64)

57-64. Because God was the psalmist's Portion, he called on God for mercy. He had lived in accordance with the Word, and continued his devotion while he was surrounded by enemies. His companions were also believers.

I. TRUST IN GOD'S WORD (119:65-72)

65-72. He trusted that the LORD would deal with him **according to** His Word. He then asked for further instruction to prevent his going **astray**. He declared his trust in the midst of slander, and admitted that through affliction he realized more of the value of **the Law**.

J. HOPE IN GOD'S WORD (119:73-80)

73-80. He believed that God created him and had given him **hope** in the Word. Knowing that in faithfulness God had **afflicted** him, he asked God to comfort him and put **the arrogant to shame**. He then prayed that **those who fear** the LORD would likewise turn to Him in accord with His Word and that he would be kept **blameless**.

K. GOD'S WORD IS FAITHFUL (119:81-88)

81-88. He admitted that his soul almost fainted while waiting for God's Word. He was weakened much as a wineskin in **the smoke** becomes shriveled. So he asked **how long** it would be until he was vindicated. He asserted that though his enemies almost consumed him, he had **not forsaken** God's Law.

L. GOD'S WORD IS SURE (119:89-96)

89-96. God's Word is settled in heaven and is attested by His **faithfulness**. The psalmist's **delight** in the established **Law** had enabled him to win the victory. He concluded that God's Word is **boundless** in its values.

M. GOD'S WORD IS SWEET (119:97-104)

97-104. He declared his **love** and devotion to the Law, which gave him more understanding and wisdom than his **enemies teachers**, and **elders**. By God's

Word he had kept himself pure. He extolled the **promises** of God as sweet. **Understanding** and purity summarize the points made in verses 98-101.

N. GOD'S WORD IS A LIGHT (119:105-112)

105-112. Recognizing that God's Word was his **light** to direct him he, vows to **follow it**. In his distress he called for help and affirmed that he would joyfully follow God's statutes and decrees.

O. GOD'S WORD IS AWE-INSPIRING (119:113-120)

113-120. He stated that he hated double-mindedness, and that he loved and hoped in God's Word because God was his **Refuge** and his Shield. The writer then addressed the wicked, demanding that they leave him, and asked God to **sustain** and deliver him because of His judgment against the **wicked**. He trembled in awe at the judgments of God.

P. VINDICATION FROM GOD (119:121-128)

121-128. He asked God to protect him from arrogant oppressors and to deal with him in justice and love. He sought to motivate God to respond by explaining his loyalty as God's **servant**. He added that he loved the Lord's laws (valuing them more than gold; and hated false ways.

Q. GOD'S WORD IS WONDERFUL (119:129-136)

129-136. He declared his delight for God's **wonderful** Word which **gives light**. He then prayed that the Lord would turn **to** him and establish him by directing, redeeming, blessing, and teaching him. He expressed concern over those who hate God's Law.

R. GOD'S WORD IS RIGHTEOUS (119:137-144)

137-144. He declared that because the LORD is righteous His Word is righteous. He testified of his own zeal for the Word, which was pure. He found comfort in God's righteous laws when he was in affliction.

S. GOD'S WORD IS TRUE (119:145-152)

145-152. The psalmist called on the LORD to deliver him because he obeyed, hoped in, and meditated on His **Word**. His enemies, though **near** him, were **far removed from** God's **Law** (v. 150). God, however, was also **near** him and His words were reliable.

T. LOVE FOR GOD'S WORD (119:153-160)

153-160. The psalmist called on God to deliver him because he had not **forgotten His Law**. Knowing that **salvation is** not available to **the wicked**, the psalmist affirmed that God's compassion was **great** toward him. He lamented that he had many enemies who did **not obey God's Word**. In contrast, however, the psalmist loved God's Word, which is true, and therefore asked to be preserved from his enemies.

U. REJOICING IN GOD'S WORD (119:161-168)

161-168. The Psalmist affirmed that though princes hated him without a **cause** he trembled in awe **at God's Word**. He rejoiced in the worth of the Law, loved it, and praised God repeatedly for it. Those like himself who **love** God's Word and hope in Him for **salvation enjoy great peace**. The writer then said he had observed the Law out of **love** for it.

V. DELIVERANCE BY GOD'S WORD (119:169-176)

169-176. The psalmist called on God to hear his **supplication and deliver** him. He desired to **praise** God for His Word. He asked God to enable him to **live** since he delighted in His Law. The psalmist concluded this lengthy but rich psalm by confessing that he had gone astray like a **lost sheep** and by asking God to rescue him by His Word.

The psalm is largely a collection of prayers and meditations on the Word of God, referred to by 10 synonyms. Law, Word, Saying, Commandment, Statutes, Judgment, Precepts, Testimony, Way, Path, way.

The Psalmist often spoke of several responses he had toward God and His Word: delight, love, obey, meditate, rejoice.

He also wrote that he wanted God and His Word to "renew" him and "preserve" him.