

# *Pursuing God*

## In Step with the Psalms

Lesson 15: Psalm 119:89–112

### Pursuing and Practicing God's Word

#### *Stay on the Path ~*

The Bible is unlike any other literary work; and if we are to be in a relationship with God, we must learn to not only read but apply what He has written. Reading through the pages of Scripture to acquire knowledge about God is a good thing, but knowledge not applied can become a burden and a snare. Too many believers have only head knowledge of God when what they really need is the heart application of His Word to daily life. This involves a purposeful commitment to obey God's Word that results in being taught by Him.

*I am Yours; rescue me! For I have worked hard at obeying your commandments* (Psalm 119:94 NLT). Verse 94 in the New Living Translation translates the verb *worked hard* as, "to consult, to inquire, to beat a path, to read repeatedly." This speaks to the believer who "beat a path" to the Word with the intention to read, study, and apply it diligently. The Bible is the one book we should all read with great reverence and awe, not the way we would scan the latest news edition or speed read for information. When we open our heart to God's Word, He opens His mouth and speaks to us.

We Christians do not go to the Bible to find the escape hatch to life but rather to be strengthened to face life's difficulties and grow in our relationship with God. When we can't find a reason to delight in our circumstances, we can find many reasons in the Word to delight in God and His purpose. Growing spiritually means being willing to step outside of our self-controlled comfort zone and follow Him—wherever He leads. Here in Psalm 119, the psalmist leads us to some breathtaking affirmations that anchor us to heaven while enabling us to be useful to God while here on earth.

#### *Did you know ~*

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the book and the one that most magnifies the Word of God. It professes the all-sufficiency of Scripture by extolling its perfections. If God's people will open up to the truths contained in these verses, God will add to our lives the blessings contained herein. The Spirit of God writes the Word of God on our hearts, making us want to obey: *And the Lord—who is the Spirit—makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image* (2 Corinthians 3:18b NLT). Let's purpose this week to *appreciate—apprehend—and apply* God's truth to every part of our lives!

## Psalm 119:89–112

### Meditations on the Excellencies of the Word of God

- 89 Forever, O Lord,  
Your word is settled in heaven.
- 90 Your faithfulness endures to all  
generations;  
You established the earth,  
and it abides.
- 91 They continue this day according to  
Your ordinances,  
For all are Your servants.
- 92 Unless Your law had been my delight,  
I would then have perished in  
my affliction.
- 93 I will never forget Your precepts,  
For by them You have given me life.
- 94 I am Yours, save me;  
For I have sought Your precepts.
- 95 The wicked wait for me to destroy me,  
But I will consider Your testimonies.
- 96 I have seen the consummation  
of all perfection,  
But Your commandment is  
exceedingly broad.
- 97 Oh, how I love Your law!  
It is my meditation all the day.
- 98 You, through Your commandments,  
make me wiser than all my enemies;  
For they are ever with me.
- 99 I have more understanding than  
all my teachers,  
For Your testimonies are my  
meditation.
- 100 I understand more than the ancients,  
Because I keep Your precepts.
- 101 I have restrained my feet from every  
evil way,  
That I may keep Your word.
- 102 I have not departed from Your judgments,  
For You Yourself have taught me.
- 103 How sweet are Your words to my taste,  
Sweeter than honey to my mouth!
- 104 Through Your precepts I get  
understanding;  
Therefore I hate every false way.

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet  
And a light to my path.  
106 I have sworn and confirmed  
That I will keep Your righteous  
judgments.  
107 I am afflicted very much;  
Revive me, O Lord, according to  
Your word.  
108 Accept, I pray, the freewill offerings  
of my mouth, O Lord,  
and teach me Your judgments.  
109 My life is continually in my hand,  
Yet I do not forget Your law.  
110 The wicked have laid a snare for me,  
Yet I have not strayed from Your precepts.  
111 Your testimonies I have taken as a  
heritage forever,  
For they are the rejoicing  
of my heart.  
112 I have inclined my heart to perform  
Your statutes  
Forever, to the very end.

(Scripture from the New King James Bible, ©1980 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission.)

**Open your Bible and lesson each day by beginning with a word of prayer.**

**Read Psalm 119:89–112.**

*Listen to the psalm ~ First impressions*

What is the *tone* of Psalm 119:89–112? What stands out from your initial reading?

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*Put a psalm in your heart ~ (Memory verse) Psalm 119:102*

(Write out the verse in the spaces below. Practice it each time you open your lesson.)

*I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me.*

*Learn the lessons of the psalm ~*

*Selah* (Think about):

Throughout Psalm 119, the psalmist writes about the goodness of God accompanied by the benefits of His Word which leads to principles governing how the godly person should live.

*I. God's Word Faithfully Endures.* vv. 89–96

The psalmist attests to the faithfulness of God evidenced in His Word, enabling him to have victory in crisis moments.

1. What do these verses reveal about the continuance of God's Word?

2. What do they say about the believer's preservation?

Just as life was first evidenced by God's spoken word, even so the psalmist here states that God's precepts (v.93) preserve, protect, and provide for the believer.

3. Personal: Do *you* ever question the faithfulness of God in your trials? Could it be perhaps that in your weakness you fail to appropriate God's strength? Look at Isaiah 40:28–31. What happens to the one who relies on the Lord?

The phrase “renew their strength” in verse 31 actually means *they will exchange their strength for His!* Wouldn't you rather operate in His strength rather than your own?

- a. To apply these verses would make what kind of difference in your life?

4. What does Jesus have to say about the enduring Word in Matthew 24:35?

5. Isaiah 55:10–11 contain a truth and a promise; what do you find here?

## *II. God's Word Fully Satisfies. vv. 97–104*

The psalmist declares his love and devotion to God's Word, adding that its sweetness brings clarity and understanding far surpassing that of his teachers.

Tasting God's Word for yourself brings a sense of sweetness and satisfaction to life that nothing else will: *Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good* (Psalm 34:8). The Word becomes even more precious and pleasing as you continue to meditate on it throughout your day.

1. Read through verses 97–104 carefully again. What new realization is there for *you* today as you feed on the Word?

## *Pause & ponder ~*

God's Word is like our daily food, but even food is useless unless we eat it and digest it. Reading the Bible with no intention of obeying it is like looking at a restaurant menu without ordering and eating a meal—what good does that do? What do the following verses have to say about the Word of God as the believer's sustenance?

a. Matthew 4:4—

b. 1 Peter 2:2–3—

c. Hebrews 5:12–14—

*The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold . . . sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb* (Psalm 19:9b–10).

## *III. God's Word Forever Shines. vv. 105–112*

Recognizing that God's Word is a light to direct him, the psalmist vows to joyfully obey it to the very end.

1. What does the psalmist say in these verses about his personal condition?

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2. What does he look to the Word to do for him?

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3. What does he determine to do to the end of his life?

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*Touchpoint~*

v. 7: **I will** praise You with uprightness of heart, when I learn Your righteous judgments.

## *Live the psalm ~*

The reason we feed on God's Word is so that we might get to know Him intimately as we grow in grace, becoming more like Him each day. His desire is that we would grow to maturity in our walk; our desire for His Word becomes our delight in Him! Choose a verse(s) you would like to apply this week and write it below. How will you purpose to live it out?

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## *Pray the psalm ~*

Now ask God for the power of His Spirit to enable you to live what you are learning. Compose your prayer below and lift it to Him.

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To know Him is to love Him;  
To love Him is to obey Him;  
To obey Him is to become like Him.







