

DISCOVERING GOD'S WORD

A 30-Day Devotional
Through Psalm 119



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PASTOR *Robert* MORRIS

MINISTRIES

PASTORROBERT.COM

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PREFACE

This devotional is the start of your journey to discovering the true meaning of Psalm 119 and what it means to delight in God's Word. God gave us His Word to breathe life into us, fill us with His love, and light our paths.

Psalm 119 is the ultimate resource for how you can live life to the fullest and find the favor of God. It shows how you can have a life of joy, purpose, and peace.

The writers of Psalms dealt with many themes: love, joy, blessing, sin, discouragement, struggle, and faithfulness, to name just a few. Some, like David, who wrote nearly half of the psalms, express the intimately personal expressions of the heart of a follower of God. Asaph and his sons were ordained by David as worship leaders and were commissioned to write poems. Many of the authors are unknown, though both Moses and King Solomon wrote at least one psalm. All were inspired by the Spirit to write and record these teachings for the ages.

No matter the topic of any of these poems, the underlying and overarching principle of this book of Scripture is the unfailing Word of God. From the early recording of history

and prophecy by the scribes of the Old Testament to the marvelous images of the End Times by the apostle John in the Book of Revelation, God's Word, incarnated in Jesus Christ, endures to guide, encourage, and chasten us.

As you read this devotional, we hope you'll receive a renewed passion and hunger for His Word. Once you finish these 30 days, you'll have created a habit of reading the Bible every day and listening for what the Holy Spirit says. The key to change and growth is hearing, believing, and obeying what God says to you through His Word. May you wake up each day excited to see what God will speak to you through His Word.

If you commit to making this devotional part of your daily routine, you'll never be the same. God can and will change your life!

Pastor Robert Morris Ministries

DAY 01

THE WORD OF THE LORD

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

JOHN 1:1 (NKJV)

Psalm 119 is a meditation on the Word of God and is the longest of the Psalms, with 176 verses. Since this psalm is the longest among the psalms and the Book of Psalms is the longest of the Bible, it's clear just how important God's Word is to God!

To the casual reader, Psalm 119 can seem redundant and uninteresting, but inside are nuggets of gold to help foster an appetite and respect for God and His Word.

In most Bibles, the Hebrew word *Aleph* comes right before verse 1. It's because this psalm is arranged as an acrostic. There are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet, the first being *Aleph*, then *Beth*, and so on, so that the psalm is broken into 22 sections, each one beginning with a Hebrew letter and containing eight verses. Each of the eight verses begins with a word starting with the corresponding Hebrew letter. For example, the first eight verses begin with an *Aleph*, the second eight with a *Beth*, and so forth.

The psalmist employs nine Hebrew words that can be understood in five main categories:

Word, Words, or Promises (*dabar & imrāh*): divine speech; what God Himself has spoken directly (e.g., to Abraham, Moses, the prophets, John the Baptist, etc.).

Laws (*mišpāt*) **and Statutes** (*ēdāh*): direction to make decisions, right from wrong, based on the nature and righteousness of God.

Decrees (*hōq*): the enduring significance of God’s Word; like something carved into a rock for permanence.

Law (*torāh*): teaching or instruction; like a caring father gives his child, yet from a position of authority.

Commands, Commandments (*miswāh*), **Precepts** (*piqqud*), **and Ways** (*derek*): practical application in the small details of life.

There are common themes that run throughout this psalm: a love for God’s Word, the commitment to obey His Word, encouragement and hope in times of difficulty, and guidance for life’s decisions.

Charles Spurgeon put it best when he said, “Its variety is that of a kaleidoscope: from a few objects a boundless variation is produced. In the kaleidoscope you look once, and there is a strangely beautiful form. You shift the glass a very little, and another shape, equally delicate and beautiful, is before your eyes. So it is here.”

PRAYER

God, show me the beauty of Your Word. As I commit these 30 days to You, I pray You create a deep love for Your Word in my heart and help me to make spending time with You each day a part of my daily routine. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**THE KEY TO CHANGE AND
GROWTH IS HEARING,
BELIEVING, AND OBEYING
WHAT GOD SAYS TO YOU
THROUGH HIS WORD.**



DAY 02

BE BLESSED!

“Blessed are those whose way is blameless,
Who walk in the Law of the Lord.
Blessed are those who comply with His testimonies,
And seek Him with all *their* heart.”

PSALM 119:1–2 (NASB)

“I’m blessed!” is a phrase frequently uttered by movie stars, pro athletes, work colleagues, or friends who, in many cases, don’t appear to really understand what it means. To the casual reader, Psalm 119 can seem redundant and uninteresting, but inside are nuggets of gold to help foster an appetite and respect for God and His Word.

The word ‘blessed’ (*esher*) carries the idea of being happy, joyful, and favored. Who doesn’t want to be happy and joyful? Who doesn’t want the favor of God in their lives? Yet not everyone actually has His favor. Only those who have surrendered their lives to Jesus and placed their trust in Him alone can truly say they are blessed by God. His grace and love, demonstrated on the cross, is the basis for being blessed by God. But it’s not a one-time decision: if you want to live a life that is full of the favor of God, make sure you build your life on the Word of God.

The first two verses in Psalm 119 look backward and forward to emphasize the blessedness of those who build their

lives on God's Word. Looking backward, the psalm echoes: "Blessed is the person [whose] ... delight is in the law of the Lord" (Psalm 1:1-2).

Looking forward, Jesus opened His great Sermon on the Mount with this same phrase: "Blessed are the ..." (Matthew 5:3) as He outlined the values and ethics of His Kingdom. His closing illustration was about the person whose life is built on the Word when He says, "And the rain fell and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and *yet* it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock" (Matthew 7:25).

The Word of God is the ultimate resource for how you can live life to the fullest and find the favor of God. It's how you have a life of joy, purpose, and peace.

PRAYER

God, I want all of Your blessing I can get! Blessedness is built on Your Word. Grant me Your mercy and grace. Draw me to Your Word, and draw me closer to You. May my whole life be full of Your favor! In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:6-8

DAY 03

YES SIR!

“You have commanded that your precepts be diligently kept.”

PSALM 119:4 (CSB)

In the military, when an officer gives an order, the soldier is required to say, “Yes sir!” It’s an appropriate response from a subordinate who recognizes the authority of someone with a higher rank. The order is not up for debate, nor can the soldier vacillate whether or not he or she is going to obey it.

Right at the beginning of Psalm 119, God makes sure we get two things straight: we are blessed and favored when we follow His Word (v. 1), and following His Word is not optional (v. 4). The Hebrew word for ‘command’ is from *swh*, meaning to give an order. It may sound a bit harsh, but God has ordered us to obey His commands. And there are two reasons that emerge in Scripture that show us why this is important.

First, He is God and we’re not. As Creator, He gets to decide how the universe is run. We don’t. When Job questioned the fairness of Yahweh, He responded with: “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell *Me*, if you have understanding” (Job 38:4 NASB). When Israel was complaining about God’s handling of certain things, God

told his prophet Jeremiah to go observe a potter working the clay. He wanted him to see and understand that the potter gets to decide how to handle his creation. God has decided what is right and wrong, good and evil, helpful and unhelpful, healthy and unhealthy, satisfying and unsatisfying, true and false. So when we come to the Word of God, we should come with the attitude, “Yes Sir! I will do what You want. Now, what is it that You want?”

The second reason God orders us to obey His Word is because He knows what is best for us. He created us, and He knows us better than we know ourselves. We *think* we know what is best, but we don’t really. God *always knows* what is best for us, and He has deposited this knowledge in His Word, the Bible.

If you want to live a life that is joyful and in the favor of God, get to know His Word and obey His Word.

PRAYER

God, I do want Your blessings in my life. I acknowledge that You, and You only, are God. You were from the beginning and always will be. You are my Lord, and You also know what is best for me. Teach me Your ways that I might walk in them. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:9–14

DAY 04

PURITY

“How can a young person stay pure?

By obeying Your word.

I have hidden Your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against You.”

PSALM 119:9, 11 (NLT)

Today’s Scripture verses are critical to the person who struggles with sexual purity. Many believers have memorized these verses and latched on to them in desperation. Others in society have given up on or mocked the idea of sexual purity. But God’s Word never abandons the importance of a person striving for moral purity.

Moral purity was a constant issue in the first-century church. The churches in Athens, Corinth, and other cities were right in the middle of some of the most sexually promiscuous places on earth. Worshipers of Aphrodite would go to their temple and engage in sexual activity with temple prostitutes as a form of worship. The Greco-Roman world cared little for sexual purity.

It’s no better today. A recent survey of evangelical millennials revealed that the majority of them (54%) believe there is nothing wrong morally with living together. Commercials today are as bawdy as the R-rated movies of 30 years ago. Pornography has grabbed the souls of most Americans,

even as young as eight-year-old girls and boys. Don't think for a moment that the aging process removes the temptation. The story is told about an aged seminary professor who was teaching on these verses and moral purity. One young man raised his hand and said, "Professor, when is it that a man finally stops lusting after women?" The octogenarian replied, "I don't know, son. You'll have to ask somebody else!"

The psalmist gives us a golden key to purity: hide God's Word in our hearts. Memorizing and meditating on God's Word brings a mysterious and miraculous strengthening to our resolve to obey God, particularly in this area. These three verses and many others (1 Corinthians 6:18–20; Philippians 4:8; 2 Timothy 2:22, etc.) can make an incredible difference when they are bound to your heart.

If you desire to have a pure heart, begin by memorizing these verses and praying them daily.

PRAYER

God, I want my thought life to be honoring and pleasing to You. May Your Holy Spirit help me identify and overcome temptations. I want to hide Your Word in my heart. Help me to create a habit of renewing my mind with Your Word. Purify me, I pray. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:15–16

**THE WORD OF GOD IS THE
ULTIMATE RESOURCE FOR
HOW YOU CAN LIVE LIFE TO
THE FULLEST AND FIND THE
FAVOR OF GOD.**



DAY 05

WONDER

“Open my eyes to see
the wonderful truths in your instructions.”

PSALM 119:18 (NLT)

Perhaps you have been fortunate enough to travel the world to see God’s creation: the wonder of the Grand Canyon, the glaciers in Alaska, the Alps in Europe, or any of the “Seven Wonders of the Modern World.” And then there are those incredible pictures from the Hubble Spacecraft of galaxies far away with breathtaking splendor on display. The birth of a child or grandchild is overwhelming to most people because of the wonder and sophistication of the human body; the life-element breathed by God into each baby is beyond comprehension.

Wonder is defined as “a feeling of surprise mingled with admiration, caused by something beautiful, unexpected, unfamiliar, or inexplicable.”¹ You may have pictures of the places you’ve visited and pictures of all your children and grandchildren—all of which have impacted you. But nothing can match the power and influence of God’s Word on your life. Students of the Bible testify over and over again that what they have experienced in their lives has been jaw-dropping and life-changing.

1 Lexico Online Dictionary, s.v. “wonder.” Accessed February 1, 2021, <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/wonder>.

The psalmist references this awe-inspiring wonder of God's Word. He uses *torah*, which you'll remember is like the instruction that a loving father gives his child. God has such loving guidance for us in His Word, but we can't really discern it with our mind. In fact, Jesus stated that its deeper truths are hidden and can only be understood by a work of the Spirit (see Matthew 11:25; John 6:63). This is why the psalmist asks that God open his eyes to see something that is not ho-hum, but truly wonder-full.

Not everyone sees the treasure in God's Word. A casual reading doesn't generally capture the beauty, so we must be intentional.

Here are four things you can do when you open God's Word:

1. Begin with the psalmist prayer: "Holy Spirit, open the eyes of my heart to see."
2. Come with an attitude of submission: "God, I will seek the truth that I might live the truth."
3. Like a jeweler admiring an expensive diamond, examine the passage from different angles so you can fully understand its meaning and beauty.
4. Write down what the Holy Spirit has revealed to you. Sometimes you may need to repent. Other times you may need to praise or give thanks or choose to forgive.

This works for anyone—including you. Why don't you start doing this today? His glorious Word awaits to fill you with wonder.

PRAYER

God, You are the Creator of all things, and those things are wonderful. I am constantly surprised and awed by the beauty of Your creation and Your ways. Draw me to Your Word and open my eyes to see what You want me to see. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:17–24

DAY 06

ALIENS

“I am a resident alien on earth;
do not hide Your commands from me.”

PSALM 119:19 (CSB)

There’s a popular notion that we are not alone in the cosmos; that other life-forms exist. The rationale is the universe is so vast that the odds of us being the only life forms are infinitesimal. But if God is infinitely powerful and intelligent, it was no big deal for Him to speak what is into reality. The universe is a backdrop and the world a stage upon which God is seeking a relationship with the one part of creation that is made in His image.

There are, however, aliens among us. The psalmist confesses he is an alien, and elsewhere the Bible assesses true believers as aliens and immigrants.

I think it is right, as long as I am in this bodily **tent**, to wake you up with a reminder, since I know that I will soon lay aside my **tent**, as our Lord Jesus Christ has indeed made clear to me (2 Peter 1:13–14 CSB, emphasis added).

Our bodies are tents; not cabins, houses, or mansions. We are nomads.

Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” ... (1 Peter 2:11 NLT).

America is truly the land of the immigrant (Russian, Irish, Mexican, etc.), but the ultimate immigrant is the believer; we live in a foreign land.

They were *foreigners* and *temporary residents* on the earth. Now those who say such things make it clear that they are seeking a homeland (Hebrews 11:13–14 CSB, emphasis added).

This world is *not* our home.

There is a world system dominated by “*the god of this world,*” Satan (2 Corinthians 4:4). He opposes God, the things of God, and the people of God. He dominates every fiber of this fallen world: politics, business, education, etc. He is leading the world in the wrong direction; the direction of God’s judgment.

If you feel like you’re swimming against the current in this world, that’s a good thing! The only way to keep from getting swept away by worldly notions is to stay in the Word of God.

PRAYER

God, I acknowledge that I am an alien in this land, and that this world will always be a source of struggle and opposition from other “gods.” I rebuke Satan and his attempts to draw me away from You. Thank You for Your Word that guides me along the path of life. Open my eyes to see and my ears to hear what You are saying to me today. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:25–32

DAY 07

COUNSELING

“Your decrees are my delight
and my counselors.”

PSALM 119:24 (CSB)

Many pastors will tell you they aren't very good counselors and that if the people coming to them need in-depth, long-term counseling, they'll refer them to good, biblical counselors for help. Spiritually mature counselors are a gift to the Lord's church.

Having said that, no human counselor can give you the wisdom and insight into your problems like the Word of God. The Bible addresses every form of human brokenness and problem. Someone once said, “The key to success in life is being able to go to the Word with your problems and coming away with solutions.” That's great advice!

The psalmist uses the word *edah*, which is direction to make decisions, right from wrong, based on the nature and truth of God. If you want to live wisely, if you want to walk the path of peace and joy, if you want success in your relationships, then delight in His *edah*: His decrees, His Word.

This is why becoming a student of the Bible is so critical to our mental and emotional health. Since God created us, He knows exactly what we need. He knows the problems, and

He knows the solutions. He has embedded the insights and understanding we need in His Word.

Delighting in His Word will help you know what grief is and how to deal with it, how to handle a struggling marriage, how to overcome shame and guilt—whatever the issue is, God’s Word will speak deep into your soul like no one else can.

If you’re dulled by His word rather than delighted, then one or more of four realities are true:

1. You’re an unbeliever, so you don’t have the Holy Spirit to open your eyes.
2. You’re a believer, but you’re not surrendered to the Holy Spirit’s leading, which inhibits revelation.
3. You’re not really spending time in the Word each day.
4. You’re not taking the time to think through what it’s saying and writing it down.

If any of these fit you, don’t get discouraged. There are online tools and resources that can help you get started, including daily reading plans. What is fundamentally true is that the more time you spend in the Word, the hungrier you get for it. The more you’re in it, the more you’ll want it, and the more you’ll be blessed!

PRAYER

God, thank You for providing me everything that I need to be counseled through the struggles in my daily life. All that I need is in Your Word. Grant me the ability and desire to delight in Your Word. Give me a greater understanding of what Your Word says. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:33–36



**GOD'S WORD WILL SPEAK
DEEP INTO YOUR SOUL LIKE
NO ONE ELSE CAN.**

DAY 08

HYDRATE

“I lie in the dust;
revive me by Your Word.”

PSALM 119:25 (NLT)

Hydration is critical to your health. It regulates your body temperature, keeps your joints lubricated, helps prevent infections, delivers nutrients to your cells, keeps your organs functioning properly, and improves your sleep, mood, and cognition. Here’s another benefit: it revives you.

Maybe you’ve noticed that if your water intake is low, you start feeling listless and lethargic. You may even look for a place to lie down. Yet, drinking a big glass of water changes everything in about 10–15 minutes. You may get a temporary surge in energy from an energy drink, but your high from their caffeine comes back down very quickly.

The psalmist has identified something that not only revives the body and the soul but also gives you a surge—the Word of God. When you’re down, discouraged, and struggling with the challenges of life, the key is to get in the Word of God. There is something energizing, stimulating, and life-renewing about God’s Word. It’s like drinking a glass of water—10 minutes in the Word changes everything! As you gain God’s perspective on things, you have a more positive outlook and become energized to take on the challenge of

the moment. It's truly miraculous!

The Hebrew word used for 'Word' in Psalm 119:25 is *dabar*, which signals divine speech—direct words from the mouth and heart of God. Like a coach on the sideline admonishing his fatigued players to give it their best, God's words renew us and energize us like nothing else. You can try “cultural energy drinks” like shopping, watching TV, outdoor activities—but they won't energize your soul. In fact, they make things worse because they keep you from discovering the deep well of soul hydration that is in the Word of God.

If you're struggling with energy to meet the challenges God has orchestrated in your life, then double down on your time in the Word. Find verses that encourage you and make them your “go-to” energy drink! Here are a few to start with: Jeremiah 29:11; John 1:5; John 3:16; John 16:33; Romans 5:8; Romans 8:1, 31–39; Philippians 4:13; 1 John 4:10. Check them out. Memorize the ones that stand out to you so you can call on them whenever you need reviving. Like that huge glass of water, they penetrate the sinews of your soul and infuse life and vitality into your being.

PRAYER

God, I so often feel weak and thirsty. Thank You for Your Word that renews my soul. May Your Spirit guide me to just the right words to revive my heart and soul every day. Thank You for giving my soul hydration and energy that can only come from You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:37–40

DAY 09

GRIEF

“I am weary from grief; strengthen me through your word.”

PSALM 119:28 (CSB)

In his book *A Grief Observed*, C. S. Lewis said, “No one ever told me that grief felt so like fear.” Of all the human experiences, grief may be the most terrifying. Grief is what we feel when we experience loss: loss of a job, loss of a relationship, loss of health, loss of a loved one. It comes to us when the brokenness of this world shows up at our doorstep.

News flash—grief is God-given. It’s His provision for us to deal with the void; a merciful outlet to express the pain of loss.

Some view grief as a sign of weakness or a lack of faith. Nothing could be further from the truth. David wept and grieved over the loss of his son, Absalom. Habakkuk grieved over the ruin of Jerusalem. And then there is Jesus. At His good friend Lazarus’s funeral, Scripture says, “When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled” (John 11:33 ESV). Notice those last words. Deeply moved. Greatly troubled. This indicates a deep, visceral emotion. Sure enough, what soon followed was the shortest verse in the Bible: “Jesus wept” (John 11:35). Jesus experienced grief. And it wasn’t because of weakness or lack of faith!

Jesus, more than any single person, grasped the trauma and tragedy of human brokenness. He was on earth to deal with the cause and the curse. So when He looked around and saw the pain and felt the loss, His deep grief made its way to the surface—and He wept.

But He didn't get stuck in His grief. Why? He knew how the story would end; that He would suffer and die for the brokenness and create a way to overcome it in this life and escape it in the life to come.

The psalmist knew the Word of God would strengthen and encourage him. All through Scripture, we are given words of hope and peace to bring healing in our grief. Jesus identifies with us in our grief (Isaiah 53:3), He comforts us in our grief (2 Corinthians 1:3–5), and He promises that grief won't have the last say (1 Thessalonians 4:13).

If you are grieving, Google Bible verses on grief. Read them, post them on your mirror, and memorize them. You will find ultimate comfort and peace in His words.

PRAYER

God, thank You for giving me a way to deal with the void of loss and to express my pain. I will not be afraid to grieve, but I will not allow myself to get stuck in it. Please soothe the grief of my heart with Your Spirit and Your Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:41–48

DAY 10

SELF-DECEPTION

“Keep me from lying to myself;
give me the privilege of knowing your instructions.”

PSALM 119:29 (NLT)

What a great verse! Such honesty: “*Keep me from lying to myself!*” We do it all the time. Self-deception is the process of denying or rationalizing away evidence or logic that is contrary to our perceptions or beliefs. The range of examples go from the humorous—the guy who thinks he’s a good basketball player even though no one chooses him in a pick-up game, to the tragic—the alcoholic who thinks his drinking is not a big deal.

Self-deception is a big deal. It keeps us from understanding reality, and if we can’t discern what is real and unreal, what is truth and lie, then we’re left wandering around in the dark without finding the path that can lead us to the light.

Self-deception begins in the heart. Jeremiah 17:9 says,

The human heart is the most deceitful of all things,
and desperately wicked.

Who really knows how bad it is? (NLT).

In our fallen state (Genesis 3), the heart is filled with pride (the worst kind of self-deception) and misperceptions. When a person confesses this to God and stops relying on

themselves for truth (repentance), then surrenders to The Truth (Jesus), God's Spirit enters and begins reorienting that person to God's realities. The Word of God is indispensable to this process. It keeps orienting us toward the truth.

Self-deception also occurs because we listen to the wrong voices. Some of those voices are the people we choose to receive counsel from. As an example, many marriages have been destroyed because a spouse listened to bad counsel from friends or workmates. Other voices are from lying spirits; envoys of Satan who whisper lies meant to draw us away from God and His truths.

Keeping our noses in the Word is critical. But that's not all we need to do—we need to obey the Word as well: “But don't just listen to God's Word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves” (James 1:22 NLT). So many believers listen to or read God's Word, but then don't apply it to their lives and obey it. Talk about self-deception!

Get into the Word and get serious about rooting out the self-deception in your heart and mind.

PRAYER

God, I acknowledge that I am often governed by pride and rely on myself for truth and to determine what path I will take. Lord, draw me to Your Word every day so I will know and understand the truth. Keep me from lying to myself and lead me to true living. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:49-56

**YOU WILL FIND
ULTIMATE COMFORT
AND PEACE IN
HIS WORDS.**



DAY 11

DISORDERED DESIRES

“Give me an eagerness for your laws
rather than a love for money!
Turn my eyes from worthless things,
and give me life through your word.”

PSALM 119:36–37 (NLT)

Augustine explained that sin is “disordered love,” i.e., loving something more than we should. We tend to focus on sin as something that we do, but after careful thought we can see that our behaviors spring out of the desires of our hearts. Augustine then gave us a proper, biblical order for our love: to love God first and foremost, then others, and finally ourselves.

This idea of disordered desires is helpful to understand why the world is in such a mess. It began in Eden when Adam and Eve desired a fruit basket over pleasing God—and we’ve been doing it ever since. Since then, the human soul has been tragically marred—scrambling our desires in a way that, without Jesus, we cannot get them in proper order.

The psalmist confesses he has a penchant for focusing on worthless things, hoping to find life and meaning in them. He recognizes his disordered desires. That’s the first step in getting things straight—to comprehend that our desires are terribly disordered. He then calls on God to grant an

eagerness, a desire, a love for His Word.

Desires for God and the things of God are not natural to us. We don't possess them innately—God grants them through His indwelling Spirit.

Our affections drift toward things that are so temporal: money, popularity, power, comfort, etc.

Only God's Word can reorient us to what is truly valuable. It gives us what we really, deep down, are searching for—*life!* Jesus concurred with the psalmist, "The Spirit alone gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63 NLT).

God's Spirit takes God's Word and reorders the disordered desires in God's people. What is disordered in your life right now? What do you find yourself loving more than God and His Word? Take a moment and list the top three, confess them as sin, and call out to God to do what only He can do: change you from the inside out through the power of His Word and Spirit.

PRAYER

God, You are the only one worthy of my love. My desires are disordered. Help me reorganize my desires so I can recognize what is truly worthy and valuable. Give me an eagerness for Your Word rather than a love for _____ . Turn my eyes from worthless things and give me life through Your Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:57-61

DAY 12

REVERENCE

“Establish Your word to Your servant
As that which produces reverence for You .”

PSALM 119:38 (NASB)

Any parent knows the insanity of trying to get their small children to obey. Even if they do what you say at the moment, chances are they’ll forget it or ignore it in just a few seconds. It’s maddening, right? The reason they do this: your word is not established in their mind and heart. Something has to happen to get them to remember and obey. Good parents figure out ways for their child to learn to respect them and what they say.

The psalmist is calling on his heavenly Father to establish His Word in his life. The Hebrew word for establish is *quwm*, meaning to rise up, get up, endure, stay fixed. He knows that getting the Word established in his heart and mind will produce reverence for God. How so? The Word reveals who God is—His essence and character.

Let’s examine a few of His attributes:

- 1. Eternal.** No beginning and no end. He created time, so He is outside of time. Before time began, He was. “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, who was and who is and who is to come.” (Revelation 4:8 NASB).

2. Love. Not that He is loving, but He *is* love. “God is love” (1 John 4:16 NIV). The word *agape* means unconquerable benevolence; it does not depend on the object of its love for its continuance.

3. Just. The treatment of each person without partiality and the proper administration of His moral code resulting in punishment or reward. “For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and injustice” (Isaiah 61:8 CSB).

4. All-Powerful. While He grants limited power to His creation, His power is infinite and never depleted in any way. “Whatever the Lord pleases He does, In heaven and in earth, In the seas and in all deep places.” (Psalm 135:6 NKJV).

5. Holy. The word *holy* means set apart. God is different from anything and everything. No matter how much something in creation may resemble God, it does not make it God. “Be holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16 NKJV).

As God’s Word gets established in your heart, you will see more clearly who He is and what He’s doing. The end result is a reverence for Him and a desire to worship Him.

PRAYER

God, I want to see You more clearly that I might worship You more passionately. May I come to know and appreciate all Your attributes. Please establish Your Word in my heart and give me eyes to see so that I can revere You as Your obedient child. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:62-64

DAY 13

PITIED

“Remember Your promise to me;
it is my only hope.”

PSALM 119:49 (NLT)

Have you ever heard the phrase, “My word is my bond?” Apparently, it goes back to the 1500s and was adopted as the motto of the London Stock Exchange in 1801, enabling deals to be struck without immediate documentation or written pledges.

The psalmist is repeating a recurring theme throughout the psalms: God is faithful to what He says. He is the God of His Word. His Word is His bond.

This indispensable character trait of God is our only hope. If He is not good for His Word, if what He says is not what He does, if we can't count on Him to follow through on His promises, we're not only terribly deceived—we are fools above all other fools. The psalmist knows this and exclaims: “God, if Your Word, Your promises are not true—I'm doomed!”

It's proper to say that we have faith in the promises of God, but the “*it*” in this verse points not to the promise itself, but to the Promise Maker. The psalmist is counting on God remembering and following through on the promise. The

promise is no good unless the one making it is willing and able to deliver.

Counting on the Promise Maker and claiming His promises is one of the keys to victorious living. Do you have some of God's promises bound around your heart; promises from God that are enabling you, encouraging you, strengthening you, reviving you? If not, Google the promises of God and start memorizing these "protein pills" of spiritual growth.

Counting on the faithfulness of God sets us up for victory if they're true—or pity if they're not. Paul makes this argument about the reality of Christ's resurrection and the promise of our resurrection in Him:

"For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins. In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world" (1 Corinthians 15:13, 17–19 NLT).

I'm not counting on being pitied—I'm counting on God's faithfulness!

PRAYER

God, I believe You and I trust You. I can count on Your Word and Your Spirit to guide me in right paths; to comfort me and provide everything I need to live a faithful life. I know You will keep all Your promises. You and Your faithfulness are my only hope. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:65–72

**AS GOD'S WORD GETS
ESTABLISHED IN YOUR
HEART, YOU WILL SEE MORE
CLEARLY WHO HE IS AND
WHAT HE'S DOING.**



DAY 14

SONGS

“Your statutes are the theme of my song during my earthly life.”

PSALM 119:54 (CSB)

Have you ever been singing in church and someone around you is singing really loudly, but they can't sing on key? If not, maybe *you're the one* who can't carry a tune! It doesn't really make any difference, does it? Psalm 100:1 says, “Make a joyful noise” (KJV). It doesn't matter if some of our voices may be more noise than melody! It's all about the heart.

Maybe more important than the song we sing with our voices is the song we sing with our lives. Our psalmist touches on this reality when he identifies that the theme of his life-song is the Word of God. The Hebrew word used for statutes is *hōq*, referring to the enduring significance of God's Word; like something carved into a rock for permanence.

The permanent, rock-solid theme of the entire Bible is the glory of God. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for glory is *kabod*, carrying with it the idea of importance, honor, fame, weightiness, and majesty. In the New Testament, the Greek word is *doxa*, meaning fame, splendor, brightness, and beauty. The glory of God is all about the fame of God.

Everything we do as believers is to enhance His fame: “So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31 NLT). To use the analogy, our life-song is to be on key; a melodious tune that highlights the glory, the fame of our God.

When things are going well in our lives, we are to live on key. There’s not a good thing in our lives that is not from God: “Whatever is good and perfect is a gift coming down to us from God our Father” (James 1:17 NLT). If there is good in our lives, God is the source and the reason, not us.

But of course, life is not always easy. In difficult times, we must sing His praises as well. Paul and Silas were in prison, yet sang praises to God (Acts 16:25). In good times and in bad, our lives are to sing the tune that our God is amazing, kind, generous, gracious, and faithful.

What song are you singing? Is your life-song in tune and on key?

PRAYER

God, thank You for all the good and perfect gifts You’ve given me, in good times and bad. Your Word is a solid rock on which I can base my life. Your glory is the source of all good things. Enable me to sing a song with my life that shines the light on Your fame all the time. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:73–75

DAY 15

PORTIONS

“The Lord is my portion.”

PSALM 119:57 (CSB)

If you knew anyone who grew up in The Great Depression, you’ve heard stories of them preparing meals for 8–10 family members out of one chicken or maybe even a couple of squirrels they shot! Needless to say, when they all sat down for dinner, their portion was quite small. Recently, you might have noticed at restaurants that portion sizes have increased significantly. Some portions are so large, we have no business eating all of it!

Many, if not most, Christians tend to land in one of two groups. The first group would call themselves Christ-followers, but in reality, they’re not following Him that closely. They’re not in the Word every day, they’re not trying to memorize His Word, they don’t keep a prayer journal, they’re not committed to a small group, they aren’t serving, they’re casual about church attendance, and on and on. Their portion is quite small. The second group of Christ-followers is all-in. They have a daily Bible study, they’ve learned to pray effectively, they’re burdened for their lost friends, they’re committed to their church, and on and on. Their portion is huge!

The first group is always hungry, but for more of the wrong “food.” They keep tasting what the world offers to satisfy, but money, popularity, power, and comfort don’t satisfy their hunger. Just look at the celebrities in our country who have all that, but are empty, messed up, and suicidal. The second group is also always hungry, but for more of God! When a need arises, they access their portion by getting in the Word and through prayer.

The psalmist makes the point that no less than God Himself was his portion. Whatever he needed, God was enough. If he was afraid and needed courage, God was enough. If he was lonely and needed companionship, God was enough. If He felt empty and needed fulfillment, God was enough. If he was depressed and needed joy, God was enough. God was his portion.

Is God enough for you? Or are you still looking to the stuff of this world to meet the deficit in your life. By the way, if the infinite God is not enough for you, no thing and no one will be either. I encourage you to make the Lord be your portion today.

PRAYER

God, be my portion. Keep me from being hungry for the things of this world that can never really satisfy my needs. You are the only One who can satisfy. Direct my heart to You. I want You to be more than enough. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

DAY 16

ANCHORED

“Evil people try to drag me into sin,
but I am firmly anchored to your instructions”

PSALM 119:61 (NLT)

Boats and ships come equipped with anchors. The smallest may weigh 10 pounds while the heaviest may weigh many tons! The purpose is the same regardless of size: to keep the boat or ship from drifting into the rocks because of currents and/or winds.

The psalmist uses this imagery to talk about God’s Word. He’s saying that when the people around him and circumstances are trying to influence him away from Yahweh, God’s Word anchors him and keeps him from drifting that way.

There are so many influences in our lives that try to blow us into the rocks. The most powerful is Satan himself. He is constantly tempting us to make decisions that are harmful and get in the way of our relationship with God. Then there are those around us who don’t have a biblical world view. God is not central in their lives, which means their lives are wrapped around them and theirs. It is a worldly outlook and value system.

The apostle John warns us against such a view:

Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. For the world offers only a craving for physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions. These are not from the Father, but are from this world. And this world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever (1 John 2:15–17 NLT).

Paul talked about this as well:

Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth (Ephesians 4:14).

The only way to avoid being blown into false doctrine or a worldly perspective and lifestyle (and crashing on the rocks) is to get grounded—anchored in the Word of God. His instructions and His directions are time-tested guides to keep us moored to the truth—living a life for His glory and our good. Get anchored in God's Word today!

PRAYER

God, thank You for Your instructions. I disavow all the things that keep me from focusing on You. May Your Spirit keep me from the love of the world and pride in possessions or accomplishments. By Your grace, I will anchor my life to Your Word. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:81–88



**OUR LIVES ARE TO SING
THE TUNE THAT OUR GOD IS
AMAZING, KIND, GENEROUS,
GRACIOUS, AND FAITHFUL.**

DAY 17

EASY WAY OR HARD WAY?

“Before I was afflicted I went astray,
but now I keep your word.
You are good, and you do what is good;
teach me your statutes.”

PSALM 119:67–68 (CSB)

Good parenting books recommend consistency in the area of disciplining children. If the parent gives a command and the child ignores or disobeys it, loving parents respond with rational and appropriate consequences. If the child obeys, the wise parent responds with praise and sometimes even a reward. The child has a choice: they can do it the easy way or the hard way.

The psalmist asserts God is good. His goodness means that He is benevolent toward all people. He rains on the just and the unjust (Matthew 5:45), has offered salvation to all people, and is particularly benevolent and loving to those who receive His invitation. God’s goodness means He is not evil and He abhors all evil. And because He is also just, He will either discipline or judge evil.

Discipline and judgment are two different actions. Judgment has to do with penalty and punishment. Fortunately, believers will avoid the judgment of God because they have trusted in Jesus’ blood and death on the cross to atone and

pay for their wickedness. Those who are outside of Christ will have no way to avoid the just wrath of a holy God.

For believers, our loving and good Father has given us commands and guidance to live a life that is pleasing to Him and will be pleasurable and fulfilling to us. When we wander, He loves us too much to let us stray too far, so He will discipline us.

This discipline can come to us in many forms. For example, our secrets may become public, or we may experience the consequences of our sin in other painful ways. One of the worst afflictions is administered by the Holy Spirit, who grieves when we sin and creates an unrest in our soul as a result. (See Ephesians 4:30)

Every believer has experienced the discipline of the Lord countless times. Hopefully, it has prompted us to turn to and delve into His Word more ardently and passionately so that we will be strengthened not to repeat our sin. Given the choice between the easy way or hard way, let's choose the easy way!

PRAYER

God, thank You for Your afflictions in my life! I want to obey You, but when I do stray, I know that I can find guidance from Your Word. Use afflictions to draw me closer to You. Thank You also that my judgment is secure. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:89–96

DAY 18

THE SCHOOL OF AFFLICTION

“It was good for me to be afflicted
so that I could learn Your statutes.”

PSALM 119:71 (CSB)

If you were to ask a number of mature believers when they grew the most spiritually, became less worldly, hungered for God and His Word more passionately, and sensed God’s presence more closely—most, if not all, would say it was during the times they went through great affliction. Times of affliction became great turning points of their lives.

Martin Luther said, “I never knew the meaning of God’s Word until I came into affliction. I have always found it one of my best schoolmasters.” Why is that? How is it that afflictions can be such a positive influence in our lives? Because trials and suffering remind us how weak and frail we are and how much we need God to get through them.

In those seasons of suffering, we become desperate to dive into God’s Word to find perspective, promises, and hope. In the process, though our faith is being tested, we come out of the affliction stronger in our faith and more resilient in adversity. The psalmist uses the word decrees (*hōq*), which is the enduring significance of God’s Word; like something carved into a rock for permanence. When the sands are shifting under our feet; when everything around us and in

us feels upside down and chaotic, God's Word is constant. It's the rock Jesus talked about when He said, "Anyone who listens to My teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock" (Matthew 7:24–25 NLT).

God uses pain and suffering to our advantage *if* we cooperate with Him in the process. To be certain, many people become bitter, hardened, and cynical as a result of their affliction. When affliction arrives at your door, how do you respond? Do you find it as an opportunity to draw close to God through His Word or to push Him away in disgust and disappointment? Do you want to leverage the moment or discard the opportunity? Don't waste the pain!

PRAYER

God, I know I am to be thankful in all matters, so thank You for what You're wanting to do in my life through this trial. May I carve Your decrees into my heart. Grant me the grace to cooperate with You and emerge from this trial more faithful and productive for Your Kingdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:97–104

DAY 19

CLOUDED VISION

“Your hands made me and formed me;
give me understanding
so that I can learn Your commands.”

PSALM 119:73 (CSB)

In the 1950s and 60s, in the bottom of almost every cereal box was a toy of some kind. A generation of Baby Boomers grew up with this phenomenon. One toy was a small plastic submarine with a tiny compartment to put baking soda in. A hole in the lid of the compartment let water in slowly to interact with the soda, creating movement.

What if a Boomer had an audience with Elon Musk, the CEO and product architect of Tesla and the brains behind the fastest growing plug-in electric car line in the world, and told him that he had it all wrong? What if he told him that he needed to switch to baking soda as his mode of propulsion? That would be laughable if it wasn't so pitiful!

The maker of something knows the purpose of that thing, how it is to behave, and what its value is. Since God is the Maker and Creator of humanity, His knowledge of our purpose and being is unapproachable by puny little human brains. Yet, we have the arrogance to walk into His office and tell Him that we know better our purpose, value, and how to live. It's no laughing matter.

The psalmist reaches back to Genesis: “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness’” (1:26 CSB). “Then the Lord God formed the man out of the dust from the ground and breathed the breath of life into his nostrils” (2:7 CSB). It’s interesting that in the creation account, the verb create (*bara*) is used for light, water, stars, etc. But in 1:26 it is make (*asah*), and in 2:7 it is formed (*yatsar*). The imagery seems to be that the rest of creation God spoke into existence. But with humans, He got down on His knees in the dirt to form and fashion us—very personal and very intimate.

God made you. He knows what’s best for you. The Bible is His instruction manual. If you don’t know the Word, you’ll have a clouded vision of your purpose and struggle with fulfilling it. If you do know it, you’ll know your purpose and how to get the best out of this life!

PRAYER

God, You made me. You know me inside and out, better than anyone. Thank You for making me in Your image. Let Jesus be my example. Please enable me to understand Your purpose for my life and how I can live it out. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:105–112

**WHEN EVERYTHING AROUND
US AND IN US FEELS UPSIDE
DOWN AND CHAOTIC, GOD'S
WORD IS CONSTANT.**



DAY 20

COMFORT

“May Your favor comfort me,
According to Your word to Your servant.”

PSALM 119:76 (NASB)

When a child is hurt or feels afraid, they usually run to a parent for words of comfort. When a teen doesn't do well in sports, school, or relationships, they usually come to a parent for words of comfort. That's what parents do best!

Because God is our Heavenly Father, He too welcomes us to come to Him for words of comfort. In fact, *word* in the text is the Hebrew word *imrah*, which is divine speech; what God Himself has spoken. The psalmist is saying that he knows God loves him and that love is poured out and spoken to him through God's written Word. We can see the love of God on display in His Word, the Bible, and the result is a comforted heart.

All believers suffer trouble, hurt, slander, struggles, failure, and fear. Mature ones go to and find great comfort in the Word of God. When you're experiencing these emotions, who or what do you turn to for comfort? Some folks turn to alcohol or drugs, others turn to shopping and purchasing, some turn to activity and busyness, some turn to entertainment or amusement. These may bring comfort for a while, but not for long.

God's word is so powerful and adequate for the task and brings a lasting comfort and peace.

Fear:

Don't be afraid, for I am with you.

Don't be discouraged, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you.

I will hold you up with my victorious right hand
(Isaiah 41:10 NLT).

Uncertainty:

Trust in the Lord with all your heart;

do not depend on your own understanding.

Seek his will in all you do,

and he will show you which path to take (Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT).

Grief:

And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13 NLT).

Failure:

The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again
(Proverbs 24:16 NLT).

Rejection:

You are coming to Christ, who is the living cornerstone of God's temple. He was rejected by people, but he was chosen by God for great honor (1 Peter 2:4 NLT).

Now those are words of comfort! Ponder them. Memorize them. Cling to them.

DAY 21

MERCY, MERCY, MERCY

“Surround me with Your tender mercies so I may live,
for Your instructions are my delight.”

PSALM 119:77 (NLT)

In 1966, Joe Zawinul wrote a song for his jazz group called “Mercy, Mercy, Mercy,” and it rose to number two on the Soul charts. It was later covered by The Buckingham in 1967, who took it to number five on the pop charts. To be fair, the song is about a girlfriend who “knocks him off his feet—have mercy on me!” It ends with the vocalist proclaiming, “Mercy, Mercy, Mercy.”

When we think about the love and mercy God has shown us in our lives, we should want to shout, “Mercy, Mercy, Mercy!” It’s the idea of “Oh my—this is, You are, incredible!”

Mercy in the Old Testament is the idea of compassion and that God has compassion on us in times of suffering. Someone has said that compassion is your pain in my heart. True compassion enters into the pain and suffering of the other. That’s our compassionate God. He is not aloof or detached—the incarnation is the ultimate proof of that. He took our pain and agony on Himself and suffered it for our sake.

In this psalm, the writer asks that God would surround him with His tender mercies. Then he points to a great source of those mercies: the Word of God. On the pages of Scripture, we see God displaying mercy on behalf of His people again and again. He saw Adam and Eve awkward and ashamed, then provided clothing and protection for them. When Elijah was running from Jezebel, He provided food and water. When Jesus saw the multitudes, “He had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (Matthew 9:36 NLT), and healed the sick and lame.

Pain and suffering can come unexpectedly and for unknown reasons. What is certain is that God’s Spirit, author of the Scriptures, has and continues to dole out volumes of mercy and compassion when we seek Him and His word. This is why the psalmist says, “Your instructions are my delight.”

Dig deep into the Word. Make it a discipline that sustains you every morning, every day, every trial, every joy. As you delight in His word, you will more and more exclaim: “Mercy, Mercy, Mercy!”

PRAYER

God, You are compassionate and merciful in all Your ways. At times I am confused and helpless. Only Your mercy can provide true direction, peace, and comfort. By Your Holy Spirit, draw me to Your Word so that I might delight more and more in it. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

DAY 22

THE SHAME CULTURE

“Bring disgrace upon the arrogant people who lied about me; meanwhile, I will concentrate on Your commandments. May I be blameless in keeping Your decrees; then I will never be ashamed.”

PSALM 119:78, 80 (NLT)

We live in a unique time for many reasons. One of the trademarks recently is to shame people or groups of people whose thoughts, opinions, speech, or behavior is considered reprehensible. In some countries, the shame culture elicits harsh responses like throwing acid on one’s face or even killing them because they shamed their family. In our country, it’s not about family, it’s about ideology. If you say something that is outside another’s worldview, the result is a relentless assault, sometimes with ruinous consequences. Your opinion is not just wrong—you are a bad person.

The psalmist mentions being shamed by someone who was slandering him. He calls on God to settle the score. His main concern is that he does not speak or act in a shameful way. He recognizes that it’s God’s business to take care of the arrogant; his business is to get focused on God’s Word.

Concentrating on God’s Word keeps us from shame. It does so by guiding us to live in a way that brings honor, not shame. For instance, it shows us the value and way to moral

purity so that we can avoid being ashamed because of adultery or pornography. It shows us the way to self-control so that we can avoid the shame of being drunk or otherwise out of control. It shows us how to love our spouse so that we can avoid the shame of destroying our marriage out of self-centeredness. This applies to all conduct and relationships.

Should Christians experience shame? Shame is a popular topic in Scripture, used 227 times! Many times, it applies to the believer who has wandered from God's way, as our psalmist who wants to avoid experiencing shame.

If we're honest, we all have a history of shameful acts. Fortunately, we have a Savior who died for our sin and shame. Hallelujah! If you have repented of those shameful acts, when they surface in your consciousness, gladly recall that Jesus has paid to exonerate you with His precious blood! Now that's being blessed!

PRAYER

Father God, I confess that I have done, and still continue to do, shameful acts. I repent from those acts, but I won't allow myself to be controlled by shame. I praise You for rescuing me from a shameful life, for Your blood that covers my shameful acts, and for Your Word that guides me on the honorable path. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**WE CAN SEE THE LOVE
OF GOD ON DISPLAY IN
HIS WORD, THE BIBLE,
AND THE RESULT IS A
COMFORTED HEART.**



DAY 23

SETTLED

“Lord, Your Word is forever;
it is firmly fixed in heaven.”

PSALM 119:89 (CSB)

For 500 years, pupils were taught that Christopher Columbus was the first European to land in America in 1492. Now, it's well documented that Leif Erickson, the Viking explorer, landed in Newfoundland, Canada, in about AD 1000. It turns out neither actually set foot in the land called the United States of America.

There is not much in our world that is settled. Long-held laws of the land can be overturned by the Supreme Court. Centuries old mores can disintegrate in a generation or two.

But there is one thing that is settled and will never change or be proven untrue: the Word of God!

Isaiah put it succinctly: “The grass withers and the flowers fade, / but the Word of our God stands forever” (Isaiah 40:8 NLT). The stuff of this world is in constant flux, but God's Word is not. It's settled.

The wise believer approaches the Bible with the conviction that it's true. The reader is not the final authority on truth; God's Word is. God is the real author of Scripture: “All

Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right” (2 Timothy 3:16 NLT). *Inspired* means “God-breathed.” The words we read on the pages of the Bible are fixed and held firmly in heaven.

There is a worldly notion that the Bible is antiquated, conflicting, and untrustworthy. But when a skeptic takes the challenge seriously to study it from beginning to end, including the disciplines of textual, philological, literary, and form criticism—the word of God withstands the scrutiny.

There are a number of orthodox (proper) confessions and statements of faith concerning Scripture. A good one to say is:

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God’s revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter.²

God’s word is settled in heaven. Is it settled in your heart? If it is, you’ll be blessed!

PRAYER

Lord, You are the author of the Word. You are faithful and loving, so I can know that Your Word is also unerring and permanent. Enable me to build my life on Your settled, unchanging Word. Thank You for remaining true and never changing. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

² Baptist Faith and Message 2000. Accessed February 8, 2021, <https://bfm.sbc.net/bfm2000/>.

DAY 24

THE ULTIMATE WEAPON

“The wicked hope to destroy me,
but I contemplate Your decrees.”

PSALM 119:95 (CSB)

A study of war and weapons (military science) is an interesting education. Early in human development, our ancestors used sticks and clubs. With the advent of the iron age, body armor, shields, swords, and spears emerged. Each time a weapon was developed by a people, their enemy would develop some kind of counter-weapon. This has gone on for ages. Examples in modern times would include the development of tanks and anti-tank artillery, missiles and anti-ballistic missiles, and the list goes on.

The psalmist recognized this concept with regard to his enemies and the Word of God. They were intent on destroying him, but his counter-weapon was the Word. Decrees (*ēdāh*) means to give direction in order to make decisions, right from wrong, based on the nature and truth of God. The implication of this verse is that his enemies were not necessarily out to physically destroy him, but to lead him down a path that would be ruinous. The way he could avoid that was to contemplate and meditate on God’s Word in order to stay on the right path.

At the onset of Jesus' earthly ministry, the Spirit led Him into the wilderness for 40 days of prayer and fasting (see Matthew 4). At the end of that period, Satan came to Him to tempt Him; to lure Him down a path that would be ruinous. Three times Satan tempted Jesus with hedonism ("make these stones into bread"), egoism ("go ahead and jump—You won't die"), and materialism ("I'll give You the kingdoms"). If Jesus had succumbed to even one of those, we would still be dead in our sin.

But three times, Jesus countered with the Word of God. All three times He responded, "But the Scriptures say..." (Notice the present, not past tense—God's Word is alive! (See Hebrews 4:12)) Finally, Satan left Him alone.

In a very real way, Satan learned an important lesson that day: when it comes to the Word of God, he has no counter-weapon. His strategy, then, is to create doubt in the Word or tempt you to ignore it!

Don't fall for Satan's temptations. Know God's Word and meditate on it. When the enemy comes, quote Scripture and watch its power lead you to victory!

PRAYER

God, this earthly life often seems like a constant battle. Enemies are all around me, but You and Your Holy Spirit protect me. I will not be defeated. Thank You for the Word, my powerful counter-weapon to the enemy. Help me learn to use it effectively. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:132–136

DAY 25

LIGHT

“Your word is a lamp to guide my feet
and a light for my path.”

PSALM 119:105 (NLT)

In 1990, Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith wrote “Thy Word,” a song that’s still a favorite for many. If you listen carefully to the song Amy sings, you’ll notice that God’s Word and God’s presence are synonymous.

The psalmist uses the Hebrew word *dabar* when he refers to God’s *word*: divine speech; what God Himself has spoken. It emphasizes the vocalization of God’s speech (e.g., “Let there be light”). So here we have the idea that God speaks to us in a manner that gives us direction for the moment; it comes, as it were, from the very lips of God.

What an amazing reality: God speaks to us as we tread this path called life! It’s easy to get turned around, confused, discouraged, fearful, and unsure. But when we’re well-acquainted with His Word, He speaks to us to give us what we need to stay on the right path.

To the ancients, a lamp was absolutely necessary to avoid stumbling, falling, injury, or worse. If you’ve ever tried to make your way in considerable darkness, you know that you must have a light. Darkness hides reality; it conceals

the truth. Light dispels the darkness and reveals reality and truth. We don't carry lamps much anymore, but we do carry flashlights. In the darkness, we don't shine it up far ahead of us, we shine it where our next few steps should be. That light, shining on the path, guides us to our destination.

This is a major characteristic of the Word of God. God is not trying to hide the right path from us. He wants us to discover and follow it; the path to genuine life, fulfilling life, victorious life, eternal life. However, we live in a dark world—and it seems to be getting darker. The only way forward is to listen for His directions as we study His Word.

That's the nature of God's Word. He has spoken to us through His Word, and He uses it in our lives to speak truth, reality, direction, courage, hope, and perspective—and to bless us.

PRAYER

God, I desire to walk the right path. The enemy is using darkness and lies to hide reality and truth and obscure the way You would have me go. Use Your Word in my life to direct me toward the proper destination. Thank You! In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:137–144



**GOD USES HIS WORD IN OUR
LIVES TO SPEAK TRUTH,
REALITY, DIRECTION,
COURAGE, HOPE, AND
PERSPECTIVE—
AND TO BLESS US.**

DAY 26

MILK

“Your word is completely pure,
and your servant loves it.”

PSALM 119:140 (CSB)

Some children like milk, others don't. But one thing is sure, a newborn baby desperately needs the milk provided by its mother. According to WebMD and other reputable sources, breastfeeding is the preferred method of getting the nutrition a baby needs. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends breastfeeding exclusively for the first six months. Some mothers have difficulty with this method and need to utilize baby formula as a healthy alternative, but the natural way is still the preferred way.

The apostle Peter captures this process and this verse in Psalms to talk about spiritual growth: “Like newborn infants, desire the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow up into your salvation, **if you have tasted that the Lord is good**” (1 Peter 2:2–3 CSB).

Two words are used in both verses: word and pure, which are two distinguishing characteristics. First, it is God's Word. Not Moses', not Abraham's, not David's, not Paul's or Peter's—it is God's Word—*imrāh*—divine speech. God is the author of Scripture. Second, it's pure. There are no contaminants or impurities in it.

Don't get caught up in the heresy that the Bible is flawed because the people who wrote it were flawed. As 2 Peter 1:21–22 claims, men were moved by the Holy Spirit to utter or eventually write the Scriptures. The Bible consists of 66 books by 40 different writers over a period of 1,500 years with one message—God is a glorious, redemptive, loving God.

When newborns get older, their parents will begin to feed them baby food, spooning it in one little bite at a time—and generally they'll like it. It's natural for the parent to feed a small child. But if the child was 25 years old and still needing someone to feed him, something would be terribly wrong.

That's the spiritual condition of most Christians: They have been believers for years but still need someone to feed them. They depend on their pastor to feed them deep truths (meat) instead of being able to feed themselves. That's terribly wrong—even tragic.

Are you mature enough to feed yourself? Fall in love with God's Word: read it, study it, memorize it, meditate on it—and sense the power of a changed life.

PRAYER

God, I cannot adequately feed myself. Grant me the desire to feed on Your Word, which is pure and holy, because to taste Your Word is good. Lead me from milk to solid food and give me the ability to consume Your Word daily. I pledge to respond to it. Thank You! In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:145–152

DAY 27

DESPISED

“I am insignificant and despised,
but I don’t forget your commandments.”

PSALM 119:141 (NLT)

The persecution of Christians is increasing around the globe. Believers in India, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and China are being imprisoned or even martyred for their faith. To a much lesser degree, Christians in America are suffering persecution. Sometimes it’s in the workplace as believers are taunted for their biblical worldview. Sometimes in schools, students are taunted and berated by their classmates, teachers, and professors for their faith.

There is the notion some have in our country that Christians are not persecuted. The dictionary defines persecute as: “to harass or punish in a manner designed to injure, grieve, or afflict specifically: to cause to suffer because of belief.”³ To be sure, it does not begin to compare to what is going on in other parts of the world—yet. But it is no less real to those who are despised for their faith. It appears that those who deny persecution here in America do not live in a way that elicits ill-treatment. The writer of Hebrews called us to be “strangers and exiles” (11:13 NASB). We are to live in a way that makes us strange, even despised.

3 *Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary*, s.v. “persecute,” accessed February 10, 2021, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/persecution>.

The psalmist and Martin Luther held that in common. In 1521, Luther stood before the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, at the Diet of Worms, defending himself of the charge of heresy. If he lost, he would have been burned at the stake. His heresy? *Sola Scriptura*: The Bible alone is our source for faith and practice. His last word of defense was:

Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason—I do not accept the authority of popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other—my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen.

He then sat down. Miraculously, he avoided execution—though he was greatly despised throughout the Empire the rest of his life.

The Greats for Christ always have always been despised, and yet, their testimony is that they count it a joy to suffer for Jesus—and are blessed.

PRAYER

God, thank You for those who have set an example of how to stand up to those who would despise us or lead us astray. Help me live a life worthy of Your calling and led by the Holy Spirit. I will not apologize for being different from the world. Embolden me to bear witness of Your great grace in my life to those around me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:153–160

DAY 28

THE KEY

“I rise early, before the sun is up;
I cry out for help and put my hope in Your words.”

PSALM 119:147 (NLT)

Some houses have the garage in the back so that the residents almost exclusively enter through the back door. If they try to use the key to the front door, they won't be able to get in; they need the right key.

A very common question asked by young believers is: “What’s the key to establishing a consistent time with Jesus?” The answer is always the same: “Begin your day with God in prayer and reading His Word.” The psalmist reinforces that in the verse for today: he’s learned to get up early, lay his concerns before the Lord, and get in the Word.

Jesus did the same: “Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray” (Mark 1:35 NLT). If the Son of God needed to get up early and seek God, don't you think we'd better do this too! There are many people who claim they are not “morning people,” and they struggle to establish this discipline and struggle with consistency. They want to try to establish it later in the day. But here's a question to ponder: When does an orchestra tune its instruments, before or after the concert?

To build consistency, set your alarm 15 minutes before you normally wake up. Fix a cup of coffee, head to a quiet place, pick up your Bible, read a psalm, and then pray. Your body and the adversary will fight you on this, so it may take months before it's ingrained. But neuroscience validates that new habits can be established after repetition. That's the way God wired our brains.

The most powerful way to pray is praying God's Word. Praying Scripture is the most hope-filled praying we can do. It reminds us of who God is and what He's up to. In your quiet time, you can listen for His voice and receive whatever is needed for the day.

If you're not seeking Him early and daily, decide *now* that tomorrow you will. Mature believers I know spend 45–60 minutes each morning. They started with 10–15 minutes and grew to where they are today. You can do it too—and you *will* be blessed!

PRAYER

God, I want to learn how best to worship You. Get me up early to seek Your face, Your will, and Your Word. May Your Holy Spirit lead me to pray Scripture as I seek Your blessings. In Jesus' name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:161–164

**PRAYING SCRIPTURE IS
THE MOST HOPE-FILLED
PRAYING WE CAN DO.**



DAY 29

REVIVAL

“Revive me according to Your word.”

PSALM 119:154 (NASB)

Maybe you grew up in a faith tradition that held nightly church meetings for one or two weeks every year called revivals. You invited your friends who may have been far from God, hoping to see them come to Christ. You prayed and sang and repented. An evangelist would come into town who was particularly gifted to preach the Word effectively. It was a wonderful time!

Through the millennia, revival has broken out when there has been a renewed interest in the Bible. King Josiah in the Old Testament stressed the reading of God’s Word, and revival broke out. In the New Testament, the preaching of God’s Word was the first action the minutes-old Church took: 3,000 people were saved, and revival broke out all through the Mediterranean world. In the 14th–16th centuries, Wycliffe, Huss, and Luther focused on the Word, and revival broke out again across Europe. In the 18th century, revival broke out in America (First Great Awakening) from the powerful preaching of Scripture. Many other examples exist, yet the point is that when one person, group, or nation focuses attention on the Word of God, revival occurs.

The word *revive* shows up all through the Psalms, most dramatically in the 119th Psalm. Its basic meaning is “to restore life; restore health.” Our world is so chaotic and so challenging that it sucks the life out of us every day, doesn’t it? We are broken, those around us are broken, the world is broken, and this brokenness depletes healthy attitudes, actions, feelings, and relationships. It’s getting increasingly difficult to live to the fullest.

That’s why we *must* spend time in God’s Word every day. It’s the only way we can keep our sanity! When we’re discouraged, disheartened, or depressed, we can turn to the Word and the recovery process begins.

John Knox, the great Reformer of Scotland, was beset and harassed by nearly everyone around him, including royalty. When he was at perhaps his lowest point, he said, “I will hold the ground that God has given me, and perhaps, by His grace, He will revive me again ... but if not, I will hold the ground.” How could he say that? He held to the Word of God.

If life is extracting vibrancy from you, get into the Word. Nothing renews, revives, and blesses like the Word does!

PRAYER

God, it can be easy to look to my own strength when I am discouraged or disheartened. Thank You for Your Word, which I will read to bring recovery and revival. Speak words of life to me that I may be fruitful and blessed. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

HOLY SPIRIT, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING TO ME TODAY?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Psalm 119:165–168

DAY 30

PEACE

“Those who love your instructions have great peace.”

PSALM 119:165 (NLT)

In the movie *Miss Congeniality*, Sandra Bullock plays an undercover FBI agent who is a contestant in a beauty pageant. When the finalists are interviewed, the host asks them what is the one most important thing our society needs. Everyone says, “World peace.” But when Bullock was asked, she replied something different. The audience was stunned—and silent. Realizing the awkwardness, she added, “And world peace!” to thunderous applause.

Everyone wants world peace, peace in their relationships, peace in their souls. The truth is no genuine peace comes just because we want it. As the psalmist says, genuine peace comes when there is an alignment with the Word of God.

There will never be world peace until Jesus comes, because the world is fallen and out of alignment with God’s Word. In our relationships, there is no peace until those in the relationship align with biblical values. That’s not to say non-believers can’t have harmonious relationships, but if they are, it’s because they align with God’s values: selfless love, trusted fidelity, willing sacrifice, humble confession, and gracious forgiveness.

And then there is the human soul. We're a country that can't find rest for our souls: tens of millions Americans take medication to help them deal with despair, anxiety, and depression. We think we'll find peace in activity, so we hyperactivate, which makes it worse. We think it will come with achievement or accumulation, but that doesn't work either. The world's way is not the way of inner peace.

Biblical peace is the idea of rest, of *shalom* (peace), of wholeness. Only in Christ does that begin to occur in the soul. Only when believers align with the Word does that rest, that *shalom*, flood the human soul.

Jesus talked about this: "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you . . . and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:28–29 NLT). Seeking Jesus, the Living Word, through His written Word, is the pathway to true peace of the soul. Instead of running about trying to find peace in every bush or furrow, let His Word act as a yoke to direct you down the path to inner rest and wholeness!

PRAYER

God, at times I am weak and heavy laden. The world will never satisfy my needs or provide rest to my soul, so I come to You. I place my yoke upon Jesus as He commanded. Show me in Your Word what is not in alignment so that I might find peace. In Jesus' name, Amen.

NOTES

PASTOR *Robert* MORRIS
MINISTRIES

Pastor Robert Morris Ministries television program airs in over 190 countries and features insightful teaching from Pastor Robert that will encourage and inspire you to strengthen your faith in the Lord.

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