

As Psalm 117 has the distinction of being the shortest chapter in the Bible, so Psalm 119 is the longest. The psalm is an acrostic twenty-two stanzas, one for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The eight poetic lines of each stanza begin with the same Hebrew letter.

The number eight may be connected with eight Hebrew words that appear throughout the psalm concerning its main theme. The words are translated variously as “law” , “testimonies”, “precepts”, “statutes” , “commandments” , “rules” , and “words”.

In five stanzas all eight Hebrew words occur, and every stanza has at least six of the eight.

Verse 97 is perhaps the theological heart of the psalm, as it expresses the psalmist love for God’s law. The psalmist also has a deep desire to live as keeping with this law. Yet the psalmist also recognizes that he has strayed from time to time from the standard set forth in the law. While the emphasis of the psalm is on love for and obedience to the law of God, this is balanced to some degree by an awareness of the need for forgiveness.

The law is a faithful expression of God’s character. God sent His Son to keep the law for us.

The law no longer condemns us, setting us free to accept it as our own guide for pleasing the One who died in our place.

**MEM** - *It speaks of water, and water speaks of the word of God*

**(vv.97-104 ) ESV -The love of God’s law**

**97.) Oh how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. 98.) Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies, for it is ever with me. 99.) I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your testimonies are my meditation. 100.) I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts. 101.) I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word. 102.) I do not turn aside from your rules, for you 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.**

Our relationship with the Lord is determined by our relationship to His will, and that is determined by how we relate to His Word.

Too many believers have only academic **head** knowledge of the Word., But they do not know how to put this knowledge into practice in the decisions of everyday life.

What we all need is a **HEART** of knowledge of the Word, and this means being taught by God.

(v.97) [Oh how I love your law!](#)

The psalmist loves the law because it comes from **his** God and savior.

(v.98) [Your commandments make me wiser](#)

Through our devotion to God’s Word we learn to see life as God sees it, value what he values, and love what He loves. We attune ourselves to the thoughts of God.

(1 Cor.2:16) For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

- ❖ To have the mind of Christ means knowing His will and His redemptive plan and purpose.
- ❖ It means appraising and seeing things the way God sees them.
- ❖ Valuing things the way He values them.
- ❖ Loving what He loves, and hating what he hates.
- ❖ It means understanding the holiness and awe of God and the awfulness of sin.

Thus, receiving the Spirit and following the Spirit, cause the believers world view to become radically different from the ways and wisdom of the age. (TFLSB) note.

***We must love His Word and (meditate) on it***

We enjoy thinking about people and activities that we love, and meditation means loving the Lord by pondering His Word and allowing its truths to penetrate our hearts (1:2).

This does not mean that we abandon our daily responsibilities or that we constantly quote Bible verses to ourselves and ignore our work. (i.e. **so heavenly minded and being no earthly good**) Rather, it means that our minds and hearts are so yielded to the Spirit so He can remind us of the Word when we need it and give us fresh understanding in the new challenges we face.

The unsaved person finds the Bible boring, but the devoted child of God feeds on the scriptures and enjoys the sweet taste of truth. **This is what it means to (meditate) on His Word.**

**NUN** - *Is said to represent both faithfulness and the reward for faithfulness*

**(vv.105-112) - God's law a lamp to the feet.**

***105.) Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. 106.) I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules. 107.) I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD according to your word! 108.) Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your rules. 109.) I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. 110.) The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. 11.) Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart. 112.) I incline my heart to perform your statues forever, to the end.***

It has well been said that the greatest ability is dependability, and this especially applies to the Christian life. We want God to be faithful to us, so is it wrong for God to expect us to be faithful to Him?

**Faithfulness is an evidence of faith**, and faith comes from hearing and receiving the Word of God (Rom. 10:17)

***A lamp to my feet***

God's revelation provides the insight to guide His servant.  
He will not trip in the darkness.

***Thy Word is ... A light unto my path***

God's Word contains the spiritual principles that will help us avoid many sorrows, pit falls, and tragedies brought on by wrong decisions and choices. Consequently, we must treasure its wisdom and steadfastly hold on to its precepts in all life situations.

John 1:4 In him was life; and life was the light of men.

True and genuine life is embodied in Christ. His life was the "light" for everyone, ie, God's truth, nature, purpose, and power are made available to all people through Him.=

5.) And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

The light of Christ. shines in an evil and sinful world, controlled by Satan. The majority of the world has not accepted His life or light, but the darkness has not "comprehended it" (mastered it, or won it over).

### ***My life in my hand continually***

The psalmist obedience is not risk-free, for it exposes him to the wiles of his enemies.

He could wish to be free of the danger, but he is more concerned to live a godly life in spite of it.

Once our heart is set on obeying the Word, our life is on the right course (Matt. 6:33;Pov. 4:20-27).

**SAMECH** - It is a symbol of support and protection

### **(vv. 113-120) - Dealing with the Enemy**

**113.) I hate the double-minded, but I love your law. 114.) You are my hiding place and my shield: I hope in your word. 115.) Depart from me, you evil doers, that I may keep the commandments of my God. 116.) Uphold me according to your promise, that I may live, and let me not be put to shame in my hope! 117.) Hold me up, that I may be safe and have regard for your statutes continually! 118.) You spurn all who go astray from your statutes, for their cunning is in vain. 119.) All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross, therefore I love your testimonies. 120.) My flesh trembles for fear of you, and I am afraid of your judgments.**

If the life of faith consisted only of meditation on the Word and of loving God, life would be easy, but people of faith have enemies, and life in this world is not easy.

We really can not love God's Word without hating evil, and maintaining a holy and reverent fear of God and his judgements.

"Through many tribulations we enter the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22 NKJV).

Like the ten faithless men who spied out Canaan, if we look only at the enemy and ourselves, we will be discouraged and want to quit. But if, like Caleb and Joshua, we look to the Lord, we can conquer the enemy (Num. 13:27-33).

Four assurances in these verses help us face the enemy with courage and win the battle.

1. *God protects His people (vv.113-115)*

*The "double - minded" were the people who were undecided and therefore uncommitted to the Lord (1Kg. 18:21; Jas. 1:8).*

*The psalmist knew that his shelter and shield was the Lord's alone, and he trusted in Him.*

*Only in The Lord could he find the help he needed.*

*The Lord protects us that He might equip us to face the enemy and fight the battle (Ps.91:1)*

*The psalmist had his heart set on the Lord (v. 112), so there was no need to reconsider the matter. It was settled!*

2. *God upholds the obedient (vv.116-117)*

*Uphold means to lean on the Lord for support, rest, giving aid, and refreshment (Gen. 18:15).*

*When we feel like falling down and just giving up, the Lord comes to our aid in ways we could never understand.*

3. *God rejects the wicked (vv. 118-119)*

*The writer describes the enemy in some cases, as sheep that had gone astray, and as cheap dross that must be discarded (Prov.25:4)*

*God in His judgments purifies the saints but reveals the wickedness of the sinners, the way the refiner's furnace reveals the dross (Jer. 6:28).*

*"Their deceitfulness is useless"(118 NASB) means that the thoughts and plans of the wicked are based on lies, but they are only deceiving themselves because their plans will fail.*

4.) *God alone should be feared (v. 120)*

*The fear of the Lord is the fear that conquers every fear.*

*"The LORD is my helper"; I will not fear! What can man do to me?*

*The psalmist did not approach God as a criminal about to be slain (BUT AS A SON) showing loving respect to the father.*

*God honors those who fear Him (15:4) and blesses them (115:13).*

*If we fear the Lord, we depart from evil (Prov.3:7).*

*If we are single-minded, we will fear only the Lord and trust Him.*

*"The battle is not yours, but God's " (2 Chron. 20:15).*

**AYIN** - Represents the attitude of humility

**(VV.121-128) - Blessed assurance**

***121.) I have done what is just and right; do not leave me to my oppressors. 122.) Give your servant a pledge of good; let not the insolent oppress me. 123.) My eyes long for your salvation and for the fulfillment of your righteous promise. 124.) Deal with servants according to your steadfast love, and teach me your statutes. 125.) I am your servant; give me understanding, that I may know your testimonies! 126.) It is time for the LORD to act, for your law has been broken. 127.) Therefore I love your commandments above gold, above fine gold. 128.) Therefore I consider all your precepts to be right; I hate every false way.***

**"The LORD is the Rewarder"**

Like the psalmist, believer's may appeal for God's help, based on:

1. Obedience to and love for His Word (vv.121-122)
  - **His ways and times are not always the same as ours**
2. God's promises in His sure Word (v. 123)
  - **Faith and patience go together (Heb.6:12), and God's delays are not God's denials.**
3. God's mercy and steadfast love ((v. 124)
  - **The devotion God shows toward His covenant people, demonstrates His mercy and compassion.**
4. Our commitment to serve Him (v. 125)

- **Let us rejoice in the wealth that we have in God’s word, wealth that can never be taken from us.**
5. The urgent needs we have in our lives (v.126)
- **All of God’s precepts concerning all things are always right, so we can depend on the Scriptures and have the guidance that we need.**

**PE** - means **mouth**, and refers to the power of speech

***(vv. 129-136) - A Chain Reaction***

***129.) Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them. 130.) The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple. 31.) I open my mouth and pant, because I long for your commandments. 132.) Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name. 133.) Keep steady my steps according to your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me. 134.) Redeem me from man’s oppression, that I may keep your precepts. 135.) Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes. 136.) My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.***

When we begin to see the beauty and wonder of the scriptures, we also begin to understand the ugliness of sin and the cheapness of what the world has to offer.

This section describes a “Spiritual Chain Reaction” in the life of the psalmist, one that can occur in our lives if we ponder the wonder of God’s Word.

**Wonder leads to “Obedience” (v.129)**

People obey God’s Word for different reasons, some because of fear of punishment, others to secure blessings, still others because they love God and want to please Him.

The psalmist stood in awe at the wonder of God’s Word - its harmony, beauty, perfection, practicality, power, and revelations.

**To obey the Word is to become part of that wonder, to experience power and spiritual transformation in our lives.**

**“Obedience” leads to “Understanding” (v.130)**

The light of the Word comes into our hearts and minds and brings spiritual insight and understanding (2 Cor. 4:1-6).

When Spirit-led teachers and preachers “open up” the Word, then the light of God’s truth shines forth and brings about spiritual transformation (Cor. 3:18).

**"Understanding" leads to deeper "Desire" (v.131)**

"I have treasured the words of His mouth more than any necessary food" (Job 23:12 NASB).

As a suffocating person pants for air or a thirsty person for water, so the child of God pants for the Word of God, and nothing else will satisfy.

**"Desire" leads to "love for God" (v. 132)**

Just as children long to share the love of their parents, so the child of God experiences God's love through the Word (John. 14:21-24).

To love God's name is to love God, for His name reveals all that He is.

**"God's love" leads to guidance and "Freedom" (v. 133-134)**

When we experience the love of God in our hearts, we keep His commandments (John 14:15). And obedience to His commandments set us free from the slavery of sin (Rom. 6).

When you are the servant of Jesus Christ, you are free from slavery to people.

"You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men" (1 Cor. 7:23 NASB).

**"Freedom" in Christ brings us God's "Blessing" (vv. 135-136)**

When God hides His face from His people, He is disciplining them (13;1; 80:3-7), but the shining of His face upon them is a sign of His blessing (Num. 6:25).

To seek His face is to seek His blessing.

Those who love God's Word will experience grief and sorrow, even anger, when they see God's laws rejected and scorned by the ungodly; these feelings will undoubtedly continue until the return of Christ Jesus.

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