



The Wonder Of God's Word
Psalms 119

God's Word, A Revelation Of Wonderful Things
Verses 17-24

There seems to be a sense of urgency that permeates through this stanza of the **Psalm**. In this stanza the **Psalmist** views himself as a **“servant”** of God [verses 17, 23], and as **“a stranger (foreigner) in the earth”** [verse 19]. Being a **“servant”** of God, he was a **“stranger”** that is, he did not fit in with the world, and he found it painful to be around those of the world, the proud and those in error [verse 21]. He found the world to be a place of **disgrace** and **shame**, a place where he was the object of **disdain**, and a place of **persecution** and **slander** [verse 22]. In this stanza, we see the reaction of the **Psalmist** to his position and circumstances and the spirit, and attitude that he manifested.

1. HE LONGED FOR GOD'S WORD [verse 20].

“My soul breaketh (crushed, dissolved) **for longing”** This speaks of the fervency, and the passion of his **yearning**, his **craving**, his **hungering**, and **thirsting** for the Word of God. The **Psalmist** knew and felt that he was **“a stranger in the earth”** and as a result he had a **continuous, intense, and overpowering** desire for the Word of God. The more that one knows that this world is not their home, the more they desire the Word of God, and the more time that one spends in the Word, the more they realize that this world is not their home, and that they are **“a stranger in the earth”**

2. HE DESIRED TO BE OBEDIENT TO GOD'S WORD [verse 17].

The words **“Deal** (distribute) **bountifully** (generously, abundantly) **with thy servant”** is a prayer, a plea, for **grace**, a prayer for **enabling** grace; **“that** (in order) **I may live** (the life of a faithful servant), **and keep** (take heed to) **thy word”** As a **“servant”** of God, living in this world as a foreigner, he prays for grace to **obey** and to **adhere** to the Word of God. This prayer of the **Psalmist** is expressive of his **resolve**

3. HE DESIRED ILLUMINATION FROM GOD [verse 18].

This is the prayer of one who realized that God's Word is filled with **“wondrous** (marvelous and amazing) **things”** This is the prayer of one who desired to **“behold”** (observe and grasp) such things. This is the prayer of one who realized the personal **need**, and **benefit** of such things **“that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law”** This is the prayer of one who realized his own inability, and the need for God to **reveal, display, and uncover**, to his heart the things of God and also to **remove** anything that would hinder him from **discerning**, and **grasping** **“wondrous things”** This is the prayer of one who possessed a **love** and **reverence** for the Word of God. THIS PRAYER OF THE PSALMIST REVEALS HOW THAT ALL OF GOD'S PEOPLE SHOULD APPROACH THE WORD OF GOD!

4. HE MEDITATED UPON GOD’S WORD [verse 23].

He did not allow the enemies of God and their mistreatment of him to take his mind off of the Word of God. He gave serious **thought** and careful **consideration**, and **reflected** much upon the Word of God [**Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2; 119:15, 48, 78, 148**].

5. HE DELIGHTED IN GOD’S WORD [verse 24].

He found **pleasure, happiness, and joy** in the Word of God! The Word of God **thrilled** him, **excited** him, and **captivated** him, and the fact that he was a foreigner, and found reproach, contempt, and slander in the world did not diminish the joy of the Word of God!

6. HE WELCOMED THE COUNSEL OF THE WORD OF GOD [verse 24].

He viewed the Word of God as “**my counsellors**” He looked to and trusted the Word of God for **advice, instruction, guidance, and direction!** The Word of God **encouraged** him, **urged** him, **warned** and **cautioned** him.

This stanza of the **Psalm** paints a portrait of a man who in the midst of adverse circumstances simply desired a closer walk with God in his daily life, and such involves the Word of God!
