



The Wonder Of God's Word
Psalm 119

God's Word Keeps One Focused
Verses 81-88

Throughout the entire **119th Psalm**, we see the *Psalmist* in a state of **affliction** and **suffering**. While in this state, he found the Word of God to be a **pillar**, an **anchor**, and a **foundation**. The *Psalmist* is in a storm, and the **119th Psalm** is an expression of his desire and determination to stay with the Word of God. In the midst of his adverse circumstances, he found God's Word to be a source of **blessing** and **cleansing!** In the midst of circumstances that he would not have chosen, he found the Word of God to be a source of **revelation**, **revival** and **instruction!** He found that in cleaving to the Word of God that there was **deliverance**, **hope**, **help**, and **comfort!**

In this eleventh stanza of the **Psalm**, the *Psalmist* seems to be at the lowest depths of his **anguish**, and at the edge of **despair**. But he continued to hold on to, and to be loyal to the Word of God, and in so doing, he was able to remain focused on the main thing.

1. IN HIS AFFLICTION HE CONTINUED TO HOPE IN GOD'S WORD:

"My soul (innermost part of his being) **fainteth for thy salvation"** [verse 81]. His spirit was beginning to sink as he waited and waited for God's deliverance. This speaks of a prolonged time of suffering. In spite of this, the *Psalmist* declared **"but I hope in thy word"** He believed the Word of God to be **dependable**, **reliable**, **constant**, and **trustworthy!** He found in the Word of God **certainty**, **confidence**, and **assurance**.

2. IN HIS AFFLICTION HE CONTINUED TO DESIRE THE WORD OF GOD:

"Mine eyes fail (are becoming dim) **for thy word** (for the fulfillment of the promise), **saying, When wilt thou comfort me?"** [verse 82]. He was becoming weary waiting upon God to fulfill His promises, in a time of drawn out trial. Through his weariness, the *Psalmist* was earnestly **looking** for, and **desiring** the Word of God!

3. IN HIS AFFLICTION HE CONTINUED TO REMEMBER THE WORD OF GOD:

"For I am become like a bottle in the smoke" [verse 83]. He felt like he was being slow cooked, tormented, and tortured, about ready to crack! In the midst of this, he said **"yet** (still even, nevertheless, in spite of that), **do I not forget thy statutes"** Though his affliction brought him to the end of himself, he did not stop thinking about the Word of God!

4. IN HIS AFFLICTION HE COUNTED GOD'S WORD AS FAITHFUL:

In **verse 84** he is seen waiting upon God, wondering when his suffering will end. In **verses 85-86** he spoke of the **traps**, the **deceits** and **persecution** by the hands of the enemy. The enemy continued to **oppress**, and **torment** him, but in the midst of it all, he said **"All thy commandments are faithful"** [verse 86]. Through it all, God's Word proved to be **true** and **steadfast!**

5. IN HIS AFFLICTION HE DID NOT LEAVE THE WORD OF GOD:

"They had almost (nearly) **consumed me upon earth"** [verse 87]. The enemy had come close to **depleting** and **exhausting** him. He felt like he was on the brink of being **devoured** and **demolished!** In the midst of such feeling, he said **"but I forsook not thy precepts"** he did not **abandon**, he did not **leave**, and he did not **renounce** the Word of God!

6. IN HIS AFFLICTION HE SOUGHT WHAT WAS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO KEEP THE WORD OF GOD:

In the closing verse of the stanza, the **Psalmist** prayed **"Quicken** (stir up, and revive) **me after thy lovingkindness** (such would be an act of God's lovingkindness), **so shall** (in order that), **I keep the testimony of thy mouth"** In his affliction, he desired to be **faithful** to God's Word, so he prays for that which would make it possible!

When the **Psalmist** was in the lowest depths of **trial** and **suffering**, feeling **torture** of soul, HE MAINTAINED HIS FOCUS UPON THE WORD OF GOD, AND THE WORD OF GOD ENABLED HIM TO BE PROPERLY FOCUSED! Again, God's Word is a well of **comfort**, a source of **strength**, and **cheer!** IN THE MIDST OF AFFLICTION, THE PSALMIST FOUND THE WORD OF GOD TO BE AN ANCHOR FOR HIS SOUL!
