



*The Wonder Of God's Word*  
*Psalms 119*

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*God's Word, A Source Of Deliverance*  
*Verses 153-160*

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All through the **119th Psalm**, the **Psalmist** is experiencing **trouble** from his enemies. His enemies, intent on doing him harm were an **irritation**, and **nuisance** to him, causing him great **difficulty**, **stress**, and **agitation**, and brought much **grief**, **misery**, **suffering**, and **inconvenience** into his life. The **119th Psalm** serves as a reminder to the child of God, that the Christian life is lived in a land of hills and valleys, and we cannot have mountaintops without also having valleys.

In this stanza, the **Psalmist** again, is seen **hurting** as the result of his enemies. In this stanza, we are again brought to see the personal aspect of his **suffering**. He makes reference to **“mine affliction”** [verse 153]. He twice prays **“deliver me”** [verses 153, 154]. He makes reference to **“my cause”** or circumstances [verse 154]. He makes reference to **“my persecutors and mine enemies”** [verse 157]. From these references, we see that it was a time of personal **suffering** and **distress**. It was a time of personal **helplessness**, for he needed and longed for deliverance. It was a time of personal **persecution** (harassment), and it was a time when he was personally **hated** by those who hated the Lord.

He makes reference to the **character** and **activity** of his enemies. He refers to them as **wicked** [verse 155], and as those who are **non-desirous** of God and His ways-**“for they seek not thy statutes”** [verse 155]. He speaks of their **hatred** and **malice** by referring to them as **“persecutors”** and **“enemies”** [verse 157]. He speaks of them as **rebels**, and **disobedient** by referring to them as **“transgressors”** and as those who **“kept not thy word”** [verse 158]. The **character** and **activity** of the ungodly caused the **Psalmist sorrow** and **sadness** [verse 158].

In this stanza, the afflicted **Psalmist** draws near to God in prayer-**“Consider mine affliction”** [verse 153]. That is, **“Look at me with thoughtfulness and attention, and with kindness and compassion”** He prayed twice for **deliverance** [verses 153, 154]. He prayed that God would **advocate** for him-**“Plead my cause”** [verse 154]. He prayed three times for personal **revival**, and spiritual **renewal** **“quicken me”** [verses 154, 156, 159].

In this stanza, the afflicted **Psalmist** realized the **character** of God-**“Great are thy tender mercies, O LORD”** [verse 156], and he also made mention of the **“lovingkindness”** of God [verse 159]. In addition to the **Psalmist drawing near to God in prayer**, and having **an awareness of the character of God**, he also maintained a proper attitude toward God's Word.

**1. HE KEPT GOD'S WORD UPON HIS MIND:**

In the light of his "*affliction*" he declared "*for I do not forget thy law*" [verse 153]. **Affliction** and the **behavior** of the enemy did not cause him to be **unmindful** or **neglectful** of the Word of God! In his adverse circumstances, he became more and more resolved to be **mindful**, **attentive**, and **heedful** of God's Word!

**2. HE SOUGHT GOD'S WORD:**

He said of the wicked "*they seek not thy statutes*" [verse 155], the implication being, that he did seek the Word of God. In his adverse circumstances he maintained a **desire** to know God and His will more fully, and as a result, **he pursued God's Word!**

**3. HE HELD TO GOD'S WORD:**

In the light of **persecution** he declared "*yet do I not decline from thy testimonies*" [verse 157]. HE EMBRACED THE WORD OF GOD! His **love**, and his **desire** for God's Word was not diminished by his adverse circumstances, or by the ungodly behavior of his enemies! WITHOUT WAVERING HE HELD TO GOD'S WORD!

**4. HE LOVED GOD'S WORD:**

In the midst of adverse circumstances, and the influence of the ungodly, the **Psalmist** declared-"*I love thy precepts*" [verse 159]. Unfavorable circumstances, and the wrong behavior of others could not diminish His love for the Word of God.

**5. HE MAINTAINED HIS CONVICTION CONCERNING THE WORD OF GOD:**

The stanza closes with a declaration "*Thy word is true.....and endureth for ever*" [verse 160]. This is the **belief**, the **persuasion**, the **confidence**, and the **position** of the **Psalmist** in the midst of hostile circumstances, and corrupt and unreasonable behavior.

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In the midst of discouraging circumstances, the **Psalmist** continued to look to God in prayer, and continued to have a right attitude toward the Word of God, and the result was that **he made a precise assessment of the situation-"Salvation is far from the wicked"** [verse 155], and **he saw things in the proper perspective-"Great are thy tender mercies, O LORD"** [verse 156], and "*Thy word is true.....and endureth for ever*" [verse 160].

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