



The Wonder Of God's Word
Psalm 119

God's Word, A Source Of Peace
Verses 161-168

This stanza opens with a statement regarding the circumstances of the **Psalmist-Princes** (those in authority) **have persecuted** (oppressed, harassed, and mistreated) **me without a cause** [verse 161]. He had in the past, and was experiencing in the present unjust, unreasonable, and unfair treatment. In the rest of the stanza, the **Psalmist** boldly speaks of his attitude and behavior toward the Word of God during this time, and the consequent results of such.

1. HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD'S WORD WAS ONE OF AWE:

Immediately after mentioning that he was the object of persecution, he said **“but** (nevertheless, however), **my heart** (his innermost being) **standeth** (is established, or stationed), **in awe of thy word**” [verse 161]. He was not in awe of the princes that persecuted him, but **“in awe of thy Word”** This speaks of the wonder, the marvel, and amazement that filled his heart when he thought upon God's Word. This speaks of the reverence and regard that he had for God's Word! HIS CIRCUMSTANCES DID NOT CURTAIL HIS ATTITUDE OF AWE TOWARD GOD'S WORD! This attitude of **“awe”** includes a **“contrite spirit”** and brings the blessing of God's favor and protection [Isaiah 66:2]. IN THE MIDST OF ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES MAINTAIN AN AWE FOR GOD'S WORD!

God's Word rejoiced his heart [verse 162]. This is the direct result of his **“awe”** for God's Word! The more **“awe”** that one has for the Word of God, the more rejoicing and excitement they have toward the benefits of the Word! HIS CIRCUMSTANCES DID NOT CURTAIL HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR GOD'S WORD! In the midst of adverse circumstances, he found pleasure, and reasons for exultation in the Word of God. IN THE MIDST OF ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES CONTINUE TO REJOICE IN GOD'S WORD!

God's Word was an object of love-“I hate and abhor lying (reference to the lying of his persecutors), **but thy law do I love”** [verse 163]. In reference to His **“commandments”** and **“testimonies”** he said **“I love them exceedingly”** [verse 167]. He stood in the midst of **“lying”** and he was the victim of such, and he hated it, but HIS CIRCUMSTANCES DID NOT CURTAIL HIS LOVE FOR GOD'S WORD! Because it was God's word, and because of its character his heart was **“in awe of thy word”** and for the same reasons, he says **“thy law do I love”** IN THE MIDST OF ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES MAINTAIN A LOVE FOR THE WORD OF GOD!

God's Word inspired praise [verse 164]. In spite of the unjust, unreasonable, and unfair treatment that he received from his enemies, and in spite of their lying ways HIS CIRCUMSTANCES DID NOT PREVENT THE WORD OF GOD FROM INSPIRING PRAISE WITHIN HIS HEART! He meditated upon God's Word in the midst of adverse circumstances, and found reason to sing! IN THE MIDST OF ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES, STAY IN THE WORD, AND YOU WILL FIND REASON FOR PRAISE!

There was obedience to God's Word-and done thy commandments" [verse 166]. My soul hath kept thy testimonies" [verse 167]. "I have kept thy precepts and thy testimonies" [verse 168]. ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES DID NOT CAUSE HIS OBEDIENCE TO DECLINE! "Awe" for God's Word leads to and inspires careful obedience to the Word! IN THE MIDST OF ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES SEEK TO OBEY GOD'S WORD!

2. AS THE RESULT OF HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE WORD OF GOD HE FOUND PEACE AND STRENGTH:

"Great (substantial, significant, extensive), peace have they which love thy law" [verse 165]. This "peace" is the opposite of fear, confusion, alarm, and inward commotion. This "peace" is an inward tranquility, calm, restfulness, a quiet, a composure, and a contentment! It is an inward state of confidence, assurance, and stillness! It is a state of inward strength and security that proceeds from the knowledge that God is near and in control. It is a "peace" that raises one above the world, above the difficulties, trials, storms, and obstacles of life. It is a "peace.....which passeth all understanding" and that keeps the "hearts and minds" [Philippians 4:7]. It is a "peace" that is to "rule (guide, direct, govern, and determine conduct and action) in your hearts" [Colossians 3:15]. It is the very "peace" of Christ [John 14:27]. The Psalmist found this "great peace" in loving the Word, and Christ taught that this "peace" is the result of believing [John 14:1]. There is "great peace" the very "peace" of Christ in depending, trusting, leaning, looking, coming unto the Lord. The Psalmist because of his attitude and behavior toward the Word of God had this "peace" even in the midst of unfair and unjust treatment, revealing the fact that this "great peace" is not the result of circumstances, but the result of loving and believing the Word of God.

Concerning those who "love thy law" it is said, "nothing shall offend them" [verse 165]. Circumstances, people, or obstacles are not a stumbling-block to them, causing them to depart from the Lord. LOVE FOR GOD'S WORD GIVES INWARD STRENGTH!

When an attitude of reverence, love, and obedience toward God's Word is maintained, there will be joy, praise, peace, and strength even in unfavorable conditions. THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING A PROPER SPIRIT TOWARD GOD'S WORD CANNOT BE OVERESTIMATED!
