

“A Joyful Journey – Lesson #5

Psalms 119:97-120

Review Questions

Psalms 97-101

1. What should we do when we don't understand something in the bible?
2. What does Gods Word tell us to do in Verse 97?
3. What does Gods Word make us in verse 98?
4. What do we get in verse 100?
5. How do you interpret verse 99?

Psalms 102-104

1. What is God doing for us again, in verse 102?
2. What does the word taste like?
3. What do I get in verse 104?
4. What are we supposed to hate in verse 104?

Psalms 105-108

1. What is Gods Word to us in verse 105?
2. What are we to do in verse 106?
3. What do you think in means to “suffer” in verse 107?
4. What takes place in verse 108?

Psalms 109-112

1. What happens when we “take our lives in our own hands”?
2. What do you think about verse 110?
3. What kind of heart do we have in verse 111?
4. What should our heart do in verse 112?

Psalms 113-115

1. What does verse one tell us in verse 113?
2. In verse 112 the word tells us that God is our _____ and our _____.
3. I have put my _____ in your _____. Verse 114
4. How do you deal with verse 115?

A Joyful Journey – Psalms 97-120

⁹⁷ Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. ⁹⁸ Your commands are **always with me** and **make me wiser** than my enemies. ⁹⁹ I have more insight than all my teachers, for I **meditate** on your statutes. ¹⁰⁰ I **have more understanding** than the elders, for I **obey** your precepts. ¹⁰¹ I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might **obey** your word. ¹⁰² I have not departed from your laws, for you yourself have taught me. ¹⁰³ How **sweet are your words** to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! ¹⁰⁴ I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path.

¹⁰⁵ Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. ¹⁰⁶ I have taken an oath and confirmed it, **that I will follow** your righteous laws. ¹⁰⁷ *I have suffered much; preserve my life*, LORD, according to your word. ¹⁰⁸ Accept, LORD, the **willing praise** of my mouth, and **teach me** your laws. ¹⁰⁹ Though I constantly **take my life in my hands**, I will not forget your law. ¹¹⁰ The wicked have set a snare for me, but I **have not strayed from your precepts**. ¹¹¹ Your statutes are **my heritage** forever; they are the **joy of my heart**. ¹¹² My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end.

¹¹³ *I hate double-minded people, but I love your law.* ¹¹⁴ You are **my refuge** and **my shield**; I have put my **hope** in your word. ¹¹⁵ Away from me, you evildoers, I may keep the commands of my God! ¹¹⁶ **Sustain me**, my God, according to your promise, and I will live; do not let my hopes be dashed. *(Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His Righteousness AND all these things will be added unto you – simply put, put God first in the morning before we get involved in our daily routines, and our day will run a lot smoother; God honors our commitment and faithfulness to spend time and seek His face everyday)* ¹¹⁷ **Uphold me**, and I will be delivered; I will always have **regard for your decrees**. ¹¹⁸ you reject all who stray from your decrees, their delusions come to nothing. ¹¹⁹ All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross; therefore I love your statutes. ¹²⁰ **My flesh trembles in fear of you; I stand in awe of your laws.**

“How to get more understanding” – 97-101

⁹⁷ Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long. ⁹⁸ Your commands are always with me and make me wiser than my enemies. ⁹⁹ I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes. ¹⁰⁰ I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts. ¹⁰¹ I have kept my feet from every evil path so that I might obey your word. (24/7 Battlefield!)

I'm going to have to look into a commentary on this one; the author sounds a little “proud” to me. If I meditate on the Word and I am open to listen and act upon what some of the Godly teachers share with me, that tells me I have room to grow and I don't know more than my teachers or elders.

The following commentary is so clear and concise as to what the writer is saying, it totally clarifies any questions or misunderstandings I had when I “first read these verses”. Thankful!! This study shows me, that when I don't understand something in the Bible, I really need to stop and search the real meaning of what the Holy Spirit is telling me through His Word.

It's possible to “misinterpret” the word if you are new in your relationship with Jesus, thank God for Godly teachers and commentaries to help us. We are to seek wisdom from these sources, then pray as we learn and ask the Holy Spirit for His wisdom as to what He is saying to us.

Commentary Notes

God's word gives great wisdom.

You, through your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they **are** ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies **are** my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep your precepts. **a.** You, through your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies:

The Psalmist had many enemies, some of them evil and some proud. Perhaps the proud ones boasted that they were **wiser** or more educated than the writer of the Psalm. **Yet the writer was confident that God's word had given him greater wisdom.**

In these verses, we see that the Psalmist is wiser and has more understanding than his enemies (Psalm 119:98), his teachers (Psalm 119:99), and the ancients (Psalm 119:100).***** **“The comparison is not a prideful assertion of superiority, but a form of exultation in the Lord himself, whose wisdom is more direct and superior.”** (Van Gemenen)

For they are ever with me: The Psalmist was real about the abiding presence of his enemies. They were with him **ever**, and he had to gain enough spiritual strength and enough strength of character to survive and even thrive with them **with** him.

(101-102) The word of God keeps one from evil.

I have restrained my feet from every evil way, That I may keep Your word. I have not departed from your judgments, For You Yourself have taught me.

I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep your word: The Psalmist understood that restraining himself from evil would also help him to understand God's word better. He could better **keep** God's word by keeping from **every evil way**.

I have not departed from your judgments, for you Yourself have taught me: The personal connection the Psalmist had with God through His word *encouraged* a faithful walk.

"The study and obedience of thy words yields me more satisfaction and delight than any worldly men find in their sensual pleasures." (Poole)

*****The Bible is filled with passage after passage that anyone with spiritual sensitivity would find **sweet**. Passages like [Psalm 23:1-3](#), [Psalm 8:1](#), [John 3:16](#), [Romans 8:28](#), or [Revelation 22:20](#) are just a beginning. "If you can't find anything beautiful or sweet in these verses, your taste buds are terribly dulled and your eyes horribly glazed by the tawdry glitz of our culture." (Boice)

(105) The illuminating guidance of God's word.

Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. a. Your word is a lamp to my feet: The Psalmist felt that as he walked the road of life, the **word** of God made his steps clear. He would not know where to step without the guidance of God's word.

We need the Bible to teach us right from wrong. We certainly do have some inner sense of this in our conscience; but our conscience can be weak, ignorant, or damaged. The word of God is higher even than our conscience, and it teaches our conscience.

“Jesus is My Sweet Teacher!” – 102-104

¹⁰²I have not departed from your laws, for **you yourself have taught me.** ¹⁰³How sweet are your words to my taste, **sweeter than honey to my mouth!** ¹⁰⁴I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path. Thank you Jesus!!!! ¹⁰²I have not departed from your laws, for **you yourself have taught me.** ¹⁰³How sweet are your words to my taste, **sweeter than honey to my mouth!** ¹⁰⁴I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore, **I hate every wrong path.**

- I will not depart from what your Word says
 - You are my teacher
 - Your words are sweeter than honey
- I gain understanding when I study your word
 - I hate it when I do wrong!
 - I am thankful to you!
- I won't depart from your word and what you have taught me

I strive each and every “new day” to follow Gods word and what He continually teaches me. When I depart, and don't follow His promptings and teachings, I am the one that suffers for it, and it grieves the Holy Spirit of God. I win, I gain understanding through obedience and Godly instruction – I hate when I fail! But you know what – I get back up, brush myself off and go at it again, afresh and new with the power of the Holy Spirit of God within me! Thankful and Amen.

“Your Word is a Lamp Unto My Path” - 105-108

¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp for my feet, light on my path.¹⁰⁶ I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws. ¹⁰⁷I have suffered much; preserve my life, LORD, according to your word.

¹⁰⁸Accept, LORD, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws.

“Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path”. This is a short and simple portion of a verse; I often hear myself say it when I leave early in the mornings headed to work, as I climb down my front door steps.

“I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws”. What is an oath? Without going to the dictionary this morning, my interpretation of the word OATH would be a promise or a statement of my faith that I will strive to accomplish a certain task or journey.

My oath to Jesus is that I love Him and want so much to be like Him, and knowing that I will fall short of this, He helps me one day at a time, step by step, and gives me plenty of grace and mercy along my lighted pathway. When I accepted Jesus into my heart, my life changed and will never be the same again, old things are passed away and all things become new. As I grow older and my relationship grows stronger and better every day. Thankful!!!

“Preserve my life, LORD, according to your word. ¹⁰⁸Accept, LORD, the willing praise of my mouth, and teach me your laws”. **What does preserve mean?**

Preserve means =

1. Keep or maintain in unaltered condition; cause to remain or last.
2. Keep in safety and protect from harm, decay, loss, or destruction.
3. Maintain in safety from injury, harm, or danger.

My Father preserves my life according to His word – He keeps me safe from harm and danger. I bank on this every day when I leave my home and head out to work when I have to drive in San Antonio traffic and all the road construction!

Your safety may be totally different than mine, but the same Jesus and the same protection, as God is so big to preserve us all. When I think of the word preserve - remain or last = I am also reminded of that fact that I am Heaven bound, eternal preservation.

Having shared all this, the next portion of the verse is easy to do – I will praise Him with my mouth and thank Him for what He teaches me through His Word and Holy Spirit. Thank You Father!

“My Heart is Set on Keeping Your Decrees”- 109-112

¹⁰⁹ Though I constantly take my life in my hands, I will not forget your law. ¹¹⁰ **The wicked have set a snare for me**, but I have not strayed from your precepts. ¹¹¹ Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. ¹¹² My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end.

- I constantly take my life in my hands (**This is NOT a practice we should be doing, Lets Talk**)
- I will not forget your law
- I have not strayed from your precepts
- Your statutes are my heritage forever
- Your words are the joy of my heart
- My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end.

Matthew Henry Commentary:

Here is, 1. **David in danger of losing his life. There is but a step between him and death, for the wicked have laid a snare for him; Saul did so many a time, because he hated him for his piety.** Wherever he was he found some design or other laid against him to take away his life, for it was that they aimed at. What they could not affect by open force they hoped to compass by treachery, which made him say, My soul is continually in my hand. It was so with him, not only as a man so it is true of us all; wherever we are we lie exposed to the strokes of death.

What we carry in our hands is easily snatched away from us by violence, or if sandy, as our life is, it easily of itself slips through our fingers, but as a man of war, a soldier, who often jeopardated his life in the high places of the field, and especially as a man after God's own heart, and, as such, hated and persecuted, and always delivered to death (2 Cor 4:11), killed all the day long. 2. David in no danger of losing his religion, notwithstanding this, thus in jeopardy every hour and **yet constant to God and his duty.**

Ps 119:111-112-Thy testimonies have I taken as a heritage forever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart. ¹¹² I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes always, even unto the end. **The psalmist here in a most affectionate manner, like an Israelite indeed, resolves to stick to the word of God and to live and die by it.**

He resolves to portion himself in it, and there to seek his happiness, nay, there to enjoy it; "Thy testimonies (the truths, the promises, of thy word) have I taken as a heritage forever, for they are the rejoicing of my heart." The present delight he took in them was an evidence that the good things contained in them were in his account the best things, and the treasure which he set his heart upon. 1. He expected an eternal happiness in God's testimonies.

- I constantly take my life in my hands
- I will not forget your law-

When I first read this, I had some initial thoughts, then as I kept reading it, I felt a need to see what the commentary had to say as David was sharing from his heart; what I was personally receiving was different than what the Psalmist was saying (bfc-personal Life Application Studies).

My response to the portion of scripture that said;" I constantly take my life in my hands, but I will not forget your law (word of God, Bible) was this:

I see a constant battle in my heart and mind daily, as I strive to serve my Jesus, but oftentimes I will take matters into my own hands and do things "my way" instead of God's way – choose not to listen and obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit of God within me. Even though I may choose to follow my feelings instead of God, I never forget His Word and appreciate the nudging and grace of the Holy Spirit.

David is the writer of this Psalms and Saul is always after him, he hated him and wanted him dead!

Therefore, we can fully understand the next portion of this verse: ¹¹⁰**The wicked have set a snare for me!**

Do you have those days when you feel like everyone is out to get you and you don't have a friend in the world? This portion of the verse would feel applicable wouldn't you agree?

- I have not strayed from your precepts
- Your statutes are my heritage forever
- Your words are the joy of my heart
- My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end.

These verses are my heart's desire, how about you?

“How to See Your Image as Jesus Sees it” – 113-115

¹¹³ I hate double-minded people, but I love your law. ¹¹⁴ You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in your word. ¹¹⁵ Away from me, you evildoers, I may keep the commands of my God!

From my NLT Bible and BB Commentary:

Those with divided loyalties can't make up their minds between following good and following evil. By obeying God has **no MIDDLE GROUND**; you must take a stand. Either we are obeying Him and doing what He wants, or we are not. (We are moving forward or we are moving backward) Choose to obey God and say with the Psalms writer "I love your instruction".

Double-minded= speaking out of both corners of your mouth, traitors of God's Word.

The Lord is our hiding place when we are pursued and our shield when we are directly attacked. Those who hope in His promise will never be disappointed because He cannot deceive or be deceived.

We part company with those who do not keep the commandments of our God. But while we separate from their sinful ways, **we still maintain contact with men of the world in order to SHARE the good news with them.**

- Hate sin in the doubleminded man, NOT the Sinner themselves.
- I love Gods Word-can't get enough of it, it is always fresh and new and just what I need.
- You are my safety haven and constant companion, friend and protector.
- I have hope in you because of what your Word tells me.
- You keep me from evil (wrong friendships and temptations through your Holy Spirit inside me)
- I strive daily to stay in and obey your word.
- **Obedience=Blessings**