

Psalm 119 is in the 5th book of Psalms and is the longest chapter in the Bible. It is composed of 22 sub-psalms or stanzas, one for each of the 22 characters of the Hebrew alphabet. Each sub-psalm has 8 verses. Nearly every one of the 176 verses has the synonym for God's Word in it. Thus, God's Word is the theme. As a note, some believe the 5th book of Moses (Deuteronomy) ties to the 5th book of Psalms because it is about God's word and commands. Since this psalm is so full of good content, I am going to share with you only on 8 verses (105 to 112).

1. Live according to God's Word

Several sections in Psalm 119 have parallel theme to Psalm 19 on God's word. Both psalms listed the characteristics of God's word like righteousness, trustworthy, faithfulness, powerful, revealing, etc. I further described in the Psalm 19 summary that God's word is precious and desirable that makes it spiritually sweet to our soul. Then, I concluded Psalm 19 summary about following His word. Here, Psalm 119:105-112 is like an extension to Psalm 19 as how we should live it out according to the Word.

Our processing steps of God's word starts with reading and knowing the Word. Then, we need to mediate on it so that we can fully understand it and be able to keep it (Psalm 119:34, Psalm 1:2, Joshua 1:8). Finally, we need to act according to the Word.

Psalm 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." This verse is in parallel with the New Testament verse of John 8:12 where Jesus is the Light of the World. God's word guides us but we must follow that guidance, otherwise we can be lost or fall into a dangerous situation. God's guidance contains both a general plan (light for my path) for long term and a specific plan for short term. A lamp (to my feet) shines for a limited distance as God shows his plan for us to walk one step at a time. Our action is to live a life according to God's word with faith. Here the author clearly stated he has been following. He did not just say "lamp is useful" or "light helps people", but he said "Your word is ...". Can you say God's word is (leads) your way?

2. Confirmation of follow God's Word even under trails, temptations and persecution.

Verse 106 states "I have taken an oath and confirmed it, that I will follow your righteous laws." Here shows the commitment; the commitment that your action is based on God's Word. It is easy to say it when things are smooth. But verse 107 states "I have suffered much; preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word." When we are in trouble, we should not grab on anything we can think of, but grab on God's word which includes His promises. God's word has strength.

3. The Word brings joy when you live it out, and praise God for it.

Verses 110 is about he has not strayed from God's precepts even under difficulties, and verse 111 is about God's word is the joy of his heart. Strength and joy go together. We have strength from God, and that gives us peace and joy. Nehemiah 8:10 states the joy of the Lord is your strength. When we receive strength from God to live a life according to His word and will, we will be prosperous and successfully overcome any situation (Joshua 1:8). We have great joy when we succeeded and we appreciate His word even more. That joy in term gives us strength to face the next step in life. The next step can come with trial or temptation, but our faith in God is stronger after each step.

In summary, commit ourselves to live a life according to God's word daily, regardless of time of difficulties or success. God's word applies when we need to make a major decision as well as daily routine actions. Hold tight to God's word in trails and persecution. Use God's word as shield under temptation and Satan's attach. Don't neglect every small action in your daily life. Your action shall not be guided by emotion or circumstance but His Word that includes how you treat your spouse, kids, co-workers, neighbors, etc. Let me tell you a story.

There was a "to be pastor" to be graduated from the seminary. His final sermon to a church has to be approved by his seminary professor similar to a doctor's dissertation defense. There was a large audience. After he delivered his sermon and the service, the audience was very positive and pleased. Then, he went outside of the door to greet the members as they walk out of the church. Suddenly a bucket of water fell on his head and he was totally wet. He started yelling and said some

strong impolite words as he turned his head to see who did it. His professor did it for giving this final test to see does he do what he preaches. Does his action guide by the light of God's Word? This example is always a reminder for me to act according to God's word. You also can be mindful of your action always. Don't let emotion, selfishness, pride, etc. to rule over your action instead of the light from His word.