

Benefits of God's Word

Psalms 119:1-16

- ¹ *Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,
who walk according to the law of the LORD.*
- ² *Blessed are those who keep his statutes
and seek him with all their heart*
- ³ *they do no wrong
but follow his ways*
- ⁴ *You have laid down precepts
that are to be fully obeyed.*
- ⁵ *Oh, that my ways were steadfast
in obeying your decrees!*
- ⁶ *Then I would not be put to shame
when I consider all your commands.*
- ⁷ *I will praise you with an upright heart
as I learn your righteous laws.*
- ⁸ *I will obey your decrees;
do not utterly forsake me.*
- ⁹ *How can a young person stay on the path of purity?
By living according to your word.*
- ¹⁰ *I seek you with all my heart;
do not let me stray from your commands.*
- ¹¹ *I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you.*
- ¹² *Praise be to you, LORD;
teach me your decrees.*
- ¹³ *With my lips I recount
all the laws that come from your mouth.*
- ¹⁴ *I rejoice in following your statutes
as one rejoices in great riches.*
- ¹⁵ *I meditate on your precepts
and consider your ways.*
- ¹⁶ *I delight in your decrees;
I will not neglect your word.*

God Guides His Children

Psalm 119:1 *Blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law (guidelines/instruction) of the Lord*

Psalm 119:2 *Blessed are those who keep his testimonies (God's will), who seek him with their whole heart*

Guidelines Give Clear Instruction

- Parents give guidelines to their children
- Do we pay attention and listen to God's guidelines?
- Students have a great appreciation for a lecturer who puts thought into the instructions and guidelines. This motivates students to hope and gives them motivation to do their best. The great personal sacrifice of his time, and thoughtfulness helps the students believe he has their best interest at heart.
- Do we trust that God has our best interest in his heart?

God's Character is Good

Psalm 119: 41 *May your unfailing love come to me, Lord, your salvation, according to your promises.*

Psalm 119:64 *The earth is filled with your love, Lord: teach me your decrees.*

Psalm 119:77 *Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight.*

Psalm 119:90 *Your faithfulness continues through all generations.*

Psalm 119:7 *I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws)*

God's law is an exact mirror of Himself

- God's law is a reflection of Himself.
- Meditating on God's law is meditating on God

Psalm 119:142 *Your righteousness is everlasting and your law is true.*

Psalm 119:86 *All your commands are trustworthy, even in my suffering*

Psalm 119:46 *I will speak of your testimonies before kings unashamedly.*

Psalm 119:42 *Never take your word of truth from my mouth, for I have put my hope in your laws*

Psalm 119:69 *Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies, I keep your precepts with all my heart.)*

Psalm 119:12: *Praise be to you Lord, teach me your decrees*

- The more the Psalmist meditates on God's law, God's attributes are revealed to Him.
- He desires more of God from his innermost being.

The Psalmist is Stirred to Obey in His Innermost Being

Psalm 119:4 *You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed.*

Psalm 119:5 *I wish that my ways were more loyal in obeying your demands (statues; ordinances).*

Psalm 119:6 *Then I would not be ashamed (anxiety, adversity) when I study your commands*

Seeking God

- Seeking God may not be something that comes natural to us. Sometimes we struggle to seek God. Its easier to hear from someone else. Or we might be afraid to seek God for His will in our life.

Psalm 119:2 *Blessed are those who keep his testimonies (God's will), who seek him with their whole heart*

Psalm 119:36 *Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain.*

Psalm 119:176 *For I have strayed like a lost sheep. Seek your servant for I have not forgotten your commands.*

- Seeking God may not be something that comes natural to us. Sometimes we struggle to seek God. Its easier to hear from someone else. Or we might be afraid to seek God for His will in our life.
- God was faithful when we sought His direction
- Though it may have seemed that obedience was not always the easiest path we could have taken, there was a great outcome and blessing from those moments when we responded to what we believed God was saying.
- The benefits that came from those choices and will be a change in character. I have never seen someone who obeyed God , was set free from a life controlling habit or lack of discipline look back and say: my life was better before when I was an unprepared, when I couldn't control by anger, being used by others, when I was not a good listener, couldn't accomplish my tasks, when I was stubborn and rebellious.
- When I come under God's direction, I have become more prepared and equipped, I learned, experienced development, experienced growth. God's good plan was better. I may not have taken that step to learn. Many blessings have been opened when I let God lead.

Seeking God

Comfort and Strength During Adversity	Compassion and Mercy
<i>23 Though rulers sit together and slander me, your servant will meditate on your decrees.</i>	<i>76 May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant.</i>
<i>25 I am laid low in the dust, preserve my life according to your word.</i>	<i>77. Let your compassion come to me that I may live. For your law is my delight.</i>
<i>28 My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word</i>	
Understanding	Teachable
<i>104 I gain understanding from your precepts; therefore I hate every wrong path.</i>	<i>12. Praise be to you Lord, teach me your decrees.</i>
<i>32 I run in the path of your commands, for you have broadened my understanding</i>	

Seeking God in Affliction

Psalm 119:67 *Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word. You are good and do good, teach me your statutes.*

Psalm 119: 71 *It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes*

Psalm 119:72 *The law of your mouth is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces*

Psalm 119: 75 *I know, O Lord that your rules are righteous and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.*

Psalm 119:10 *I seek you with all my heart; do not let me wander*

Psalm 119:76 *Let your steadfast love come to me according to your promise to your servant.*

- God's purpose for affliction is to refine the relationship with His children.
- Times of affliction led us into areas of personal growth, developing ourselves in areas we desperately needed to be strengthened, where we had a weakness in character that would have led us to sin and destruction.

Hebrews 12:11 *No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however it produces harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

Hebrews 12:16 *See to it that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. 17. Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done. Esau regretted his lack of preparation. God would have helped him.*

- Sometimes in the process of following God's will and instructions, our weaknesses of character, our lack, areas that we have not been able to get victory over will be exposed in the process.
- God's guidelines are not there to control us, but to be a blessing to keep us from our own sin and weakness in areas of our lives that He wants to expose. We can resist or believe in His love as He carries us through this process.
- He knew how to direct us on a path that would lead us on a path of righteousness, and away from sin that is corrupting us.

Having the Right Perspective of God

Psalm 119:7 *When I learned that your laws are fair, I praised you with an upright heart .*

Psalm 119:8 *I will obey your demands, so please don't ever leave me.*

- When the Psalmist began to know God's laws and study God's laws, He began to have a revelation of God's fairness and justice. He was able to praise God with an upright heart. Uprightness= Sincerity
- The Psalmist saw the truth of God's love.
- He was able to fully devote Himself to God and praise Him with a sincere heart and with right motives. He was not obeying because he had to or wanted to get something from God. He was not obeying begrudgingly. The revelation that came to him from studying God's word showed Him God's fairness and goodness.

Trust in God's Grace

Psalm 78:5-8 *5. He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel which He commanded our ancestors to teach their children. 6. So the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born and they in turn would tell their children. 7. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands. 8. They would not be like their ancestors, a stubborn and rebellious generation who whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were unfaithful.*

- The children of Israel were the one's God entrusted with the revelation of His law. In order to obey God's law, they couldn't just follow it outwardly. It would require something deeper to happen internally. For those who did not let God's word move deep into their hearts in a personal way, they were not able embrace God's grace, set their hope on him and keep his commandments. Their rebellion was not uprooted and it remained. God gave them the responsibility to pass His revelation onto their children.

- Certain perceptions and bitter roots prevented them from seeing God for who He was. They couldn't humble themselves and let go of their perception that he was harsh. God persevered with Israel even when they disobeyed. They couldn't see his love and faithfulness when they themselves were not faithful. They would rather hold onto the idea that he is harsh than allow him to confront their lack of humility. God would have helped them and carried them but they didn't seek his grace.

Living in Obedience

Psalm 119:9 *How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.*

Psalm 119:10 *I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.*

Psalm 119:11. *I have stored your word in my heart so I won't sin against you*

Psalm 119:12. *Praise be to you, Lord; teach me your decrees.*

Psalm 119:13 *With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth*

- The Psalmist wants to stay on the path of purity, the path God has for Him. He believes the way He will be able to stay on the right path is not just by reading God's word but by following God's instructions to Him. God's path for each one of us may be different. God wants us to seek His will and be obedient to that path He has called us to. He knows which path to lead us on to develop our character, strengthen us in our areas of weaknesses and keep us away from sin that could entangle us.
- Both meditation on God's word and prayer particularly oppose indwelling sin. It will cut us deep. It will expose us. To let him do this work in us. This is what it means to have a relationship with God. John Owen
- Do you expect God's word to expose you and then provides the healing transformative experience?- Gary Millar

Teachability

- Because the Psalmist has allowed God to deal with the sin in his life, he has a proper perspective of God. Now he has a teachable spirit.

Prayer 5/5/2021

Benefits of God's Word

- May we have the correct perspective of God
- May God teach us to love Him and hide His word in our hearts
- May we seek God for Himself and for Guidance and His will
- May we be open and teachability to what He wants to say; to allow God to uproot self-pity, complaining, rebelliousness
- For us to remember God's faithfulness when we obeyed

Church

- God's word to be taught in the meetings
- God to sustain Pastor Adam and leadership Team during MCO
- For us to grow in Godliness
- Desire to embrace God's word and call
- To contact each other during MCO
- May we look into each other's needs
- Unsaved family members
- Ministries: Worship Team, Life Explorers, Destiny Kids & Teens, Sunday School, Life Line Youth, Redeeming Roses,
- Pulpit Ministry & Leadership
- To care for the poor and vulnerable

Covid-19 and MCO

- Teens and Children: Pray they would be encouraged at this time and have their needs met.
- Parents: Wisdom to manage family and working from home
- India and other affected nations:
Leadership: Strength to face the challenge;
Wisdom and strength for the people; God's mercy.

Healing

- Francis (recovery)
- Suba (headaches)
- Asmita's father
- Shanti (back injury)

Malaysia

- Wisdom for leaders; people to be responsible
- Leaders will look into the needs of the poor and vulnerable