

THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

PSALMS 119

In Medieval England there was a custom. Before a convicted criminal swung from the gallows, he could have a clergyman read him a psalm.

When George Wishart was ready to be hung he chose *Psalms 119*. George knew it was the longest chapter in the Bible - 176 verses.

The story goes, two-thirds of the way through a pardon came ordering Wishart's freedom. George's knowledge of the Bible saved his life. If ole George had chosen Psalm 117 he'd been dead meat in a few seconds.

George Wishart is not the only man who's been saved by Psalm 119. Many a man has been saved - *not by its length, but by its content.*

Psalm 119 is the Bible on the Bible. It's all about the Word of God.

Ten synonyms are used for the Bible in Psalm 119 - **law, way, precepts, testimony, word, commandments, judgments, sayings, statutes, truth.**

One the TV shows I watched as a kid was **"The Guns of Will Sonnett."**

It starred Walter Brennan. He played a grisly old coot who always said, **"No brag, just fact."** In essence, *if you can back it up, it ain't bragging.*

That's how I see Psalm 119. For 176 verses the Bible brags on the Bible. It sings its own praise, and it's all true... **"No**

brag, just fact.”

Psalm 119 is also an acrostic. It's divided into 22 sections – 8 verses each – with each section and each verse beginning with a succeeding letter of the alphabet. The Hebrew alphabet begins with “Aleph.” The second letter is “Bet.” This is where we get our word “alphabet.”

Also in Hebrew, each letter is illustrated by a picture. Tonight we'll touch on the letters and their pictures. Psalm 119 is the ABCs of Scripture.

The first letter, **ALEPH**, is depicted by an **OX** - a beast of burden. And the Bible will help carry your burdens if you learn to lean on its wisdom.

Verse 1 “Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD! Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart! They also do no iniquity; they walk in His ways.

You have commanded us to keep Your precepts diligently. Oh, that my ways were directed to keep Your statutes! Then I would not be ashamed, when I look into all Your commandments.” I read a quote this week from Bill Cosby, “Women don't want to hear what you think. They just want to hear what they think... in a deeper voice.” But that's true of us all.

The purpose of the Bible isn't just to confirm what you think. It's God's means of *directing our steps, renewing our minds, shaping our lives...*

Notice too, the psalmist's desire in verse 6 is to “look into

ALL Your commandments.” He’s not content to know *a little here, a little there*.

Paul reminded the Ephesian elders that he had given them **“the whole counsel of God.”** This is the psalmist’s desire to know all God’s Word.

My former pastor skipped around. He had his pet passages - and other chapters he avoided like the plague. The net effect was two-fold: *I didn’t know the Bible in context, and my theology had some missing pieces.*

I had a **Dalmatian Theology**. I only knew *a spot here and a spot there*.

I love this quote from AW Tozer, **“The Word of God well understood and religiously obeyed is the shortest route to spiritual perfection.**

And we must not select a few favorite passages to the exclusion of others. Nothing less than a whole Bible can make a whole Christian.”

2 Timothy 3:16 tells us, **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction...”**

“I will praise You with uprightness of heart, when I learn Your righteous judgments. I will keep Your statutes; oh, do not forsake me utterly!

The second stanza of Psalm 119 begins in verse 9 with the letter **BETH** which is depicted as a **HOUSE**. The Bible provides us directions home.

The Scripture are the stairway to heaven. It takes us home to God.

And verse 9 begins by posing an intriguing question, “How can a young man cleanse his way?” Notice, he doesn’t ask, “how can a little child or a grandma cleanse her way?” I mean little kids and grandmas are not the most notorious sinners. *But young men...* adolescent males are hotheaded, cocky, reckless, hormonal, stubborn, impulsive...

If you can cleanse a young man’s way you can affect anyone.

And what performs this kind of industrial cleansing? “By taking heed according to Your word.” Only the Bible can *renew a mind - transform a character – tame a lust - create a new outlook - break old habits - produce sensitivity - spawn self-discipline – refocus priorities - and develop faith?*

There are a thousand shortcuts. There’s always some spiritual fad that promises instant results. Our only hope is a steady diet of God’s Word!

DL Moody said he prayed and prayed for more faith. He prayed for an increased faith until he was blue in the face and it never came.

Then he stumbled over Romans 10:17, “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by God’s Word.” He said he started reading his Bible, and faith had been growing ever since. The Bible has the power to change lives.

Verse 10 tells us, “With my whole heart I have sought You; oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!” You’ve got to stay not wander...

God’s Word is powerful, but the key is heeding what it says

with your *whole heart*. Don't just flirt – embrace! Love the Word with all you've got.

Thomas Aquinas said, “I have no rest, but in a nook, with the Book.”

Psalm 119:11 is a verse I learned as a kid. “Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You!” The Bible is like a roadmap. If you're in a strange city you don't read the map once then throw it away.

Recently, we visited London, and I carried a map in my back pocket. Every time we turned a corner, I'd pull it out and check my bearings.

This is how to use a Bible. Hide it in your heart and consult it often.

“Blessed are You, O LORD! Teach me Your statutes! With my lips I have declared all the judgments of Your mouth.

I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches.” God's Word means more to him than all the wealth in the world. Sadly, the Bible is a treasure chest that many people never open and spend.

“I will meditate on Your precepts, and contemplate Your ways. I will delight myself in Your statutes; I will not forget Your word.”

The third stanza begins with the letter **GIMEL** which depicts a **CAMEL**.

A camel is made for the desert. It endures the drought of the wilderness with a minimal need for water. Likewise, the person who drinks from God's Word can go a long time and

endure spiritually dry and thirsty places.

Verse 17 “Deal bountifully with Your servant, that I may live and keep Your word. Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law.”

The psalmist knows he needs God’s help to get the most out of God’s Word. This is also true for you. The Bible is the only book that brings the author Himself with it to help you understand its innuendo and insights.

To fully appreciate the *Word of God* you need the *Spirit of God*.

“I am a stranger in the earth; do not hide Your commandments from me. My soul breaks with longing for Your judgments at all times.” The psalmist has become addicted to God’s Word. *His soul longs...*

Hey, the Bible is the only positive addiction you can possess...

Verse 21 reads “You rebuke the proud - the cursed, who stray from Your commandments. Remove from me reproach and contempt, for I have kept Your testimonies. Princes also sit and speak against me, but Your servant meditates on Your statutes. Your testimonies also are my delight and my counselors.” The psalmist believed God’s Word had the answer for every problem he encountered. The Bible was sufficient for spiritual health and happiness. He needed no other counselor.

Understand this has been the Church’s belief through almost all of its history up until recent times. The Bible was

enough - utterly sufficient.

Sadly, for the first time in 2000 years the modern church assumes the Scriptures need to be supplemented with psychology. The Christian needs *a couch* as well as *Christ* – *Freud* as well as *faith* – and I say “Hogwash!”

Certainly, the Bible isn't the exhaustive index of all knowledge. It won't tell you how to build a rocket, or change the plumbing fixtures - but when it comes to spiritual and emotional health it's the authoritative source.

The Bible applied correctly and skillfully to a person's life is all the help you need to affect spiritual and emotional wellness. Don't be duped into thinking you need more than faith and obedience in God's Word.

Make the Bible your delight and your counselor! *Expand and stretch* your faith in God's Word and you won't need *a shrink*.

The fourth stanza begins with **DALETH** or **DOOR**. The Bible is the door that opens up into a world of blessing, and through which we can walk.

“My soul clings to the dust; revive me according to Your word. I have declared my ways, and You answered me; teach me Your statutes.”

The human soul tends to cling to dust, rather than soar toward the stars. We're subject to *soul gravity*. This world pulls us down, down...

It's the Bible that revives us and keeps us on a God-ward trajectory.

“Make me understand the way of Your precepts; so shall I meditate on Your wondrous works.” Christian meditation is a lost art in the Church.

Eastern meditation is the closing of your mind. The idea is to turn off your thoughts and focus on a single word or a narrow spot.

Christian meditation is the opposite. It’s an avenue to understanding. It’s opening your mind to the *truth of God* and *wondrous works of God*.

My soul melts from heaviness; strengthen me according to Your word.

Remove from me the way of lying, and grant me Your law graciously.

I have chosen the way of truth; Your judgments I have laid before me. I cling to Your testimonies; O LORD, do not put me to shame!

Notice, the psalmist clings to Scripture. He probably has a well-worn Bible. It’s used! It doesn’t sit on a shelf collecting dust. It’s been said, “A Bible that is falling apart is an indication of a life that is not.”

Verse 32 is a great verse that brings up some provocative questions. “I will run the course of Your commandments...” Have you ever allowed the Bible to run its course? *Read it... study it... meditate on it... apply it... let it shape your thinking and desires... let it alter your actions and lifestyle and friendships...* then watch it’s impact on your life. It “shall enlarge my heart.”

Let the Bible run its course. The Word of God is like a seed

that has to be planted and watered before it grows. You can't rush the process.

Let it run its course and you won't be disappointed. It enlarges your life. An impatient person after instant results never gets the Bible's benefits.

The fifth stanza begins with the Hebrew letter **HE** which is illustrated by a **WINDOW**. The door and window stand side-by-side. The door allows me to walk into God's presence – the window to peer into His secrets.

Through the *door and widow* I can know the *ways and whys* of God.

“Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.” The Bible demands our *“whole heart.”*

“Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, for I delight in it. Incline my heart to Your testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way.”

The psalmist has been talking about **the wonders of God's Word**, yet in contrast how much time do we spend occupied with worthless things?

I read where the average Christian spends 9 years of his or her life watching television, while we spend just 4 years reading the Bible.

It's said an average reader can read through the Bible from cover to cover in about 71 hours. Divide that up over 365

days, and you can read the entire Bible in one year by taking 12 minutes a day.

It doesn't take much – just sat aside a few worthless things...

“Establish Your word to Your servant, who is devoted to fearing You.

Turn away my reproach which I dread, for Your judgments are good. Behold, I long for Your precepts; revive me in Your righteousness.”

The next stanza starts with the letter **WAW** – which is depicted by a **NAIL** or **PEG**. In other words, the Bible can be trusted. It's hook on a pegboard. You can hang your hat on it - hook your life to the Word.

“Let Your mercies come also to me, O LORD - Your salvation according to Your word. So shall I have an answer for him who reproaches me, for I trust in Your word. And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, for I have hoped in Your ordinances. So shall I keep Your law continually, forever and ever. And I will walk at liberty, for I seek Your precepts.” His compliance with God's Word has given him confidence before men.

“I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed.” The Bible is the higher authority. It trumps the king!

“And I will delight myself in Your commandments, which I love. My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on Your statutes.” Live the

Bible and you'll never be ashamed.

The next stanza begins with the Hebrew letter **ZAYIN** - illustrated as a **WEAPON**. In Ephesians 6:17 Paul calls the Bible the Sword of the Spirit. Hebrews 4:12 says it's sharper than a two-edged sword.

The Word of God is *a surgical knife* that lays bear the believer's motive. And it's *a lethal weapon* that slits the throat of the devil and his legions.

Verse 49 "Remember the word to Your servant, upon which You have caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction, for Your word has given me life." How often has the Bible been a comfort in affliction? A patient in the hospital... a prisoner in jail... a soldier in battle...

"The proud have me in great derision, yet I do not turn aside from Your law. I remembered Your judgments of old, O LORD, and have comforted myself. Indignation has taken hold of me because of the wicked, who forsake Your law." Proud men mock the Bible, the psalmist is unmoved.

"Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage. I remember Your name in the night, O LORD, and I keep Your law.

This has become mine, because I kept Your precepts."

Sometimes a passage of Scripture brings such comfort - and speaks so personally and powerfully - and we've leaned on it so totally - we consider it our own. It's "mine" - as if it were written by God especially for us.

The eighth stanza begins with the letter **HETH** or **FENCE**.

The Bible is a protective fence around our lives. It stakes out our parameters... Not to hem us in, but to keep harmful dangers at bay.

The Bible is not God's attempt to squelch our fun, but to protect us.

Verse 57 "You are my portion, O LORD; I have said that I would keep Your words. I entreated Your favor with my whole heart; be merciful to me according to Your word. I thought about my ways, and turned my feet to Your testimonies." The Bible will cause us to examine our lives...

"I made haste, and did not delay to keep Your commandments."

Notice the psalmist doesn't procrastinate. He makes haste to obey God's Word. If you see where your life is out of sync with God's Word make an adjustment today – not tomorrow or next week – but today!

Listen to a poem called "Tommorrow." It should cause us all to think...

"Tommorrow," he promised his conscience, "Tommorrow I mean to believe, Tommorrow I'll think as I ought to, Tommorrow the Savior receive. Tommorrow I'll conquer those habits which hold me from heaven away." But if ever God's Spirit insisted one word, and one only - TODAY.

Tommorrow, tommorrow, tommorrow, thus day after day it went on. Tommorrow, tommorrow, tommorrow, till youth, like a vision, had gone; and age, with its passions had written the message of fate on his brow; and out of the shadows came

Death with his pitiless syllable - NOW.”

Verse 61 “The cords of the wicked have bound me, but I have not forgotten Your law. At midnight I will rise to give thanks to You, because of Your righteous judgments. I am a companion of all who fear You, and of those who keep Your precepts. The earth, O LORD, is full of Your mercy; teach me Your statutes.” And you find God’s statutes in His Word.

The next stanza begins with the letter **TETH** or **SERPENT**. The Word of God strikes quickly at its enemies. It injects the venom of conviction.

“You have dealt well with Your servant, O LORD, according to Your word. Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe Your commandments.” Indoctrinate your mind and heart in the Bible and over time it produces wisdom and “good judgment.”

Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word.

You are good, and do good; teach me Your statutes. The proud have forged a lie against me, but I will keep Your precepts with my whole heart. Their heart is as fat as grease, but I delight in Your law.”

How do you stay lean – and avoid the fat of insensitivity? How do you stay trim and in top-shape spiritually? *By delighting in God's Word!*

“It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes.” If trouble drives you to God’s Word it’s a good

trouble.

Trouble can get us into the Word. The Word will get us out of trouble.

“The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver.” Once again, the truth of God is more valuable than money.

The next stanza begins with the letter **YOD**. This is the letter Jesus referred to in Matthew 5:18, “Till heaven and earth pass away, one jot (Yod) or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”

The letter Yod is formed by a single, tiny stroke. It’s just a small slash. Sometimes it looks like a slip of the pen. Jesus is saying not just every word, but every letter - in fact, every stroke in the Bible is God’s Word.

The graphic for "Yod" is a **HAND**. Notice how this stanza begins...

Verse 73 “Your hands have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.” Understand, every human being is handmade. God fashioned us in the womb.

And if God made me it’s logical that He knows best how I should function. This is why His Word is the perfect recipe for my life.

Those who fear You will be glad when they see me, because I have hoped in Your word. I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, and that in faithfulness You have afflicted me. Let, I pray, Your merciful kindness be for my

comfort, according to Your word to Your servant.

Let Your tender mercies come to me, that I may live; for Your law is my delight. Let the proud be ashamed, for they treated me wrongfully with falsehood; but I will meditate on Your precepts. Let those who fear You turn to me, those who know Your testimonies. Let my heart be blameless regarding Your statutes, that I may not be ashamed.

The tenth stanza begins with the letter **KAPH**. Its symbol is a **WING**. And it's God's Word that gives us wings to soar spiritually.

Verse 81 "My soul faints for Your salvation, but I hope in Your word. My eyes fail from searching Your word, saying, "When will You comfort me?"

The psalmist's eyes have grown tired studying the Scriptures.

"For I have become like a wineskin in smoke, yet I do not forget Your statutes." Back in the old ways, before the ban on smoking, when you walked into a Waffle House there was always a cloud of cigarette smoke hanging in the air. It felt like eating inside a chimney.

And the smoke would get into your clothes. Kathy always knew where I'd been. The psalmist feels the same way about living in the world. The odor of sin soiled his clothes. He's like a flask that absorbed the smoke.

Verse 84 "How many are the days of Your servant? When will You execute judgment on those who persecute me? The proud have dug pits for me, which is not according to Your

law. All Your commandments are faithful; they persecute me wrongfully; help me! They almost made an end of me on earth, but I did not forsake Your precepts. Revive me according to Your lovingkindness, so that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.”

The next stanza begins with the letter **LAMED** whose symbol is an **OX-GOAD** or a cattle prodder. At times the Word becomes wings that help us soar. At other times it's like a set of spurs that nudge us.

Verse 89, “Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.”

Men shoot at the Bible, but the bullets bounce off. God's Word is settled in heaven. It's un-phased by what happens on earth. It will last forever.

The French infidel, Voltaire, boasted, “In 50 years I'll have this Book in the morgue.” 50 years later, Voltaire was dead, and the Geneva Bible Society was using his house to store their inventory of Bibles.

“Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides. They continue this day according to Your ordinances, for all are Your servants.” As sure as the sun rises God's Word will abide.

“Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction. I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life.” When you experience the life-giving power of God's Word – it's freeing and liberating effect - you will never abandon the Scriptures.

“I am Yours, save me; for I have sought Your precepts. The wicked wait for me to destroy me, but I will consider Your testimonies. I have seen the consummation of all perfection, but Your commandment is exceedingly broad.” The Bible is a prophetic book. It’s a portal into the future.

God’s Word let’s us see “**the consummation of all perfection.**” We know how the story ends. In the last day, “Jesus Christ will be on the throne.”

The 13th stanza begins with the Hebrew letter **MEM** or **WATER**. And according to Ephesians 5 God’s Word is like the washing of water!

It reminds me of the man who complained that when he read the Bible he could never remember what he’d read. His pastor commented, “**Don’t worry, when you pour water through a sieve it doesn’t hold much, but at least you end up with a clean sieve.**” Nothing else washes our souls, and minds, and hearts, and outlook like the water of God’s Word.

Verse 97 **Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they are ever with me.**” A student of God’s Word has an edge on his enemies. He’s going to have a sharper perspective.. He’ll have wisdom they lack.

“**I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation.**” Recall when Jesus was 12 years old in the Temple. Talmudic Scholars were amazed at the wisdom of the Word.

“I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts.”

A young man can eclipse the wisdom of the **ancients** or elders by availing himself to the Word. The Bible is a shortcut to wisdom.

“I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word.” Sin and Scripture repel each other. Harbor sin in your heart and it'll keep you from understanding the Bible. I love the old adage, “The Bible will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from the Bible.”

“I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me. How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” The Bible is the ultimate answer for a sweet tooth. “Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

The next stanza begins with the Hebrew letter **NUN** which is depicted by a **FISH**. This was a symbol of the early Christians – the **Ichthus**. The Greek word "fish" was an acrostic for “Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior.”

Verse 105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

The Bible is like headlights. Driving a car at night without headlights is not only dangerous for the driver, but it's also dangerous for others.

“I have sworn and confirmed that I will keep Your righteous judgments. I am afflicted very much; revive me, O LORD, according to Your word.

Accept, I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach me Your judgments. My life is continually in my hand, yet I do not forget Your law. The wicked have laid a snare for me, yet I have not strayed from Your precepts.” God’s Word has been his protection. “Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, for they are the rejoicing of my heart. I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes forever, to the very end.”

The next letter is **SAMEK** illustrated by a **PROP** or **SUPPORT**. What a fitting symbol for Scripture... it props up those who trust in its promises.

“I hate the double-minded, but I love Your law.” The double-minded had one foot in the Word and one foot in the world. They can’t make up their mind. They’re lukewarm. Neither hot or cold, and God will spit them out.

“You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word. Depart from me, you evildoers, for I will keep the commandments of my God!

Uphold me according to Your word, that I may live; and do not let me be ashamed of my hope. Hold me up, and I shall be safe, and I shall observe Your statutes continually. You reject all those who stray from Your statutes, for their deceit is falsehood. You put away all the wicked of the earth like dross; therefore I love Your testimonies.”

Here the psalmist refers to the smelting process.

When a medal is purified it’s heated to an intense temperature. Under the heat the impurities and scum rise to the top and get scraped off. Here the man who strays from

God's Word is compared to the scum.

This is why the psalmist concludes in verse 120, **“My flesh trembles for fear of You, and I am afraid of Your judgments...”** The lukewarm are spit out. The impure are scraped off. Better to be pure and on fire for God.

The next letter is **AYIN** which means **VISION**. I believe in dreams and visions, but the best vision from God is His Word. And remember visions and dreams from *God's Spirit* will always harmonize with *God's Word*.

Verse 121 **“I have done justice and righteousness; do not leave me to my oppressors. Be surety for Your servant for good; do not let the proud oppress me. My eyes fail from seeking Your salvation and Your righteous word. Deal with Your servant according to Your mercy, and teach me Your statutes. I am Your servant; give me understanding, that I may know Your testimonies. It is time for You to act, O LORD, for they have regarded Your law as void.”** The psalmist cries out for God to vindicate His Word!

That will happen, but for some folks not until the end of the age.

“Therefore I love Your commandments more than gold, yes, than fine gold! Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right; I hate every false way.” The Bible is authoritative on whatever subject it addresses – history, psychology, theology, science...

“All Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right...”

The next stanza begins with **PE** or **MOUTH**. The Bible is God's mouthpiece. It's the means by which He trumpets His truth.

“Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.

The entrance of Your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.” In one sense the Bible is a simple book for simple people.

Classical Greek has a vocabulary of almost 98,000 words. Yet the Greek NT utilizes less than 6000. The English language consists of 400,000 words, yet it took just 6000 to translate the KJ Version.

The Bible isn't complicated! It's said, “The Bible is so deep theologians can never touch bottom, yet so shallow that babies can never drown.”

“I opened my mouth and panted, for I longed for Your commandments. Look upon me and be merciful to me, as Your custom is toward those who love Your name.” Notice, it's God's "custom" to show mercy! I like that.

“Direct my steps by Your word, and let no iniquity have dominion over me. Redeem me from the oppression of man, that I may keep Your precepts. Make Your face shine upon Your servant, and teach me Your statutes. Rivers of water run down from my eyes, because men do not keep Your law.” Have you ever shed a tear over neglect for the Bible?

Next letter is **TSADDE** means **SURRENDER**. A stubborn

man is forced to surrender his will when conquered by the message of God's Word.

Righteous are You, O LORD, and upright are Your judgments. Your testimonies, which You have commanded, are righteous and very faithful.

My zeal has consumed me, because my enemies have forgotten Your words. Your word is very pure; therefore Your servant loves it. I am small and despised, yet I do not forget Your precepts. Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and Your law is truth. Trouble and anguish have overtaken me, yet Your commandments are my delights. The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting; give me understanding, and I shall live.

The next stanza begins with **QOPH** or **AXHEAD**. At times God's Word comes down hard with the subtlety of an ax. It hammers home truth.

"I cry out with my whole heart; hear me, O LORD!

I will keep Your statutes. I cry out to You; save me, and I will keep Your testimonies. I rise before the dawning of the morning, and cry for help; I hope in Your word. My eyes are awake through the night watches, that I may meditate on Your word." Both day and night he reads God's Word.

"Hear my voice according to Your lovingkindness; O LORD, revive me according to Your justice. They draw near who follow after wickedness; they are far from Your law. You are near, O LORD, and all Your commandments are truth. Concerning Your testimonies, I have known of old that You have founded them forever."

The 20th stanza begins with the letter **RESH** which is symbolized by a **HEAD**. God's Word was head over Israel and the authority in our lives.

Verse 153 **“Consider my affliction and deliver me, for I do not forget Your law. Plead my cause and redeem me; revive me according to Your word.”** Nine times in Psalm 119 the psalmist calls on God's Word to revive him. The Bible has resuscitating powers. It sparks life and ignites a flame!

“Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek Your statutes.

Great are Your tender mercies, O LORD; revive me according to Your judgments. Many are my persecutors and my enemies, yet I do not turn from Your testimonies. I see the treacherous, and am disgusted, because they do not keep Your word. Consider how I love Your precepts; revive me, O LORD, according to Your lovingkindness.

And pay close attention to verse 160, **“The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.”**

“The entirety of Your Word...” Every one of the Bible's 66 books, 1189 chapters, 31,173 verses are inerrant, infallible, and totally trustworthy.

The next stanza begins with the letter **SHIN** which is depicted by a **TOOTH**. God's Word can take a bite out of you! It digs in.

“Princes persecute me without a cause, but my heart stands in awe of Your word. I rejoice at Your word as one who finds great treasure.”

The psalmist stands before a prince of the royal family. But it's not the prince that strikes awe in his heart. He's overwhelmed with the Word.

“I hate and abhor lying, but I love Your law.” We hear lies today from the media, and professors, and politicians, and pundits, and so-called experts... the only real source of truth is the Bible. He loves the Law.

“Seven times a day I praise You, because of Your righteous judgments. Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble. LORD, I hope for Your salvation, and I do Your commandments.

My soul keeps Your testimonies, and I love them exceedingly. I keep Your precepts and Your testimonies, for all my ways are before You.”

The final stanza of Psalm 119 begins with the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet, **TAU**, which is symbolized with a **MARK**. It's been said, “It is good to mark your Bible, but it is better to let your Bible mark you.”

Vs 169 “Let my cry come before You, O LORD; give me understanding according to Your word. Let my supplication come before You; deliver me according to Your word. My lips shall utter praise, for You teach me Your statutes. My tongue shall speak of Your word, for all Your commandments are righteousness. Let Your hand become my help, for I have chosen Your precepts.” *Have you chosen God's precepts? God's way is best!*

“I long for Your salvation, O LORD, and Your law is my

delight. Let my soul live, and it shall praise You; and let Your judgments help me. I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek Your servant, for I do not forget Your commandments.” After tonight I hope *God’s Word* will be *your delight*.