SBC – Nov. 1, 2026
Psalm 119:81-96 (NKJV)
"God's Word is Faithful – God's Word is Settled"

The theme of Psalm 119 is the Word of God. With 176 verses, it is the longest chapter in the Bible. Tonight we are looking at verses 81-96. The chapter has no outline apart from the fact that 8 verses are devoted to each of the 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet in successive order.

Slide # 1

Psalm 119

Theme: The Word of God

Psalm 119:81-96

"God's Word is Faithful – God's Word is Settled"

- vv. 81-88 (Heb. letter "Kaph") – *God's Word is Faithful*
- vv. 89-96 (Heb. letter "Lamedh") – *God's Word is Settled in Heaven*

In Psalm 119 there are 8 primary Hebrew synonyms (or terms) used to refer to the Word of God.

Slide # 2

- ***Law:*** (torah) used 25 times = Commands
- ***Testimonies:*** (eduth) used 23 times = truths in keeping with God's character
- ***Precepts*** (piqqudim) used 21 times = divine instructions
- ***Statutes*** (huqqim) used 21 times = fixed decrees/rules
- ***Commandments*** (mitzvah) used 22 times = divine directives
- ***Judgments/Rules*** (mishpat) used 23 times = judicial edicts
- ***Word*** (dabar) used 24 times = the spoken Word
- ***Word*** (imrah) used 19 times = declarative message

Psalm 119:81–96 (NKJV)
81 My soul faints for Your salvation, But I hope in Your word.

Fainting denotes a loss of strength, a collapse. He felt himself desperately in need of God's deliverance. He was so weak that he was not able to stand within his own strength, BUT he hoped in God's Word.

Weak as he was, he still had hope – a certain expectation centered in God's Word. Because of the Word, no matter how desperate things may get, we still have hope! We still have the promises of God!

Yes, he was in a desperate place and yet not despairing!

Slide # 3

> **2 Corinthians 4:8–9 (NKJV)**
> **8** We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;
> **9** persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed—

82 My eyes fail from searching Your word, Saying, "When will You comfort me?"

His eyes were in the right place. One commentator says, "*He studied so hard that his eyes hurt."* This was intense. He was searching the Word intensely to find the comfort he so needed.

And yet he was still in waiting. But note that he says, "***When will You comfort me?***" He does not ask God whether or not God will bring comfort but rather WHEN. He is sure that God will comfort him, but asks WHEN. It is hard to wait!

Many fail at this point. King Saul was told to wait for Samuel, but then he went ahead and offered up his own burnt offering which was unbiblical for him to do. Because of this the kingdom was torn from him (1 Sam. 13:8-14). Later when Saul inquired of the Lord the LORD did not answer him so he sought out a medium and subsequently died (1 Sam. 28:6-7).

The test of our faith often involves waiting – waiting on the Lord for His comfort instead of forcing our own way in the flesh. In the meantime we should follow the example of the Psalmist diligently pouring over the Scriptures for what we need.

Slide # 4

> **2 Corinthians 1:3–4 (NKJV)**
> **3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and **God of all comfort,**

> **4** who **<u>comforts us in all our tribulation</u>**, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

God comforts us in all our tribulation – we just have to wait on Him until it comes.

83 For I have become like a wineskin in smoke, Yet I do not forget Your statutes.

The picture here is that of a wineskin hanging up in the rafters that has become shriveled up and dried out by smoke. It is the picture of one whose vitality is drying up. He is desperate for God's comforting touch but feels like he is in the desert.

This "Desert Experience" is a common malady among the saints through the ages. It is no fun, and yet the writer points to what we must continue to do when he says, "Yet, I do not forget Your statutes [fixed rules]."

In these times we must stay in the Word, realizing, "This too shall pass!"

84 How many are the days of Your servant? When will You execute judgment on those who persecute me?

This is one of the few verses in the Psalm that doesn't specifically reference God's Word.

> The context leads us to feel that personal weakness and a sense of injustice have led the psalmist to such distraction and despair that he has lost focus on God's word. – ***David Guzik***

> "This stanza has a great deal to say about the psalmist's enemies, as if at this point his thoughts were nearly monopolized by them."
> -***James Montgomery Boice***

At this point the psalmist is wondering how long he can hold on. The situation is really desperate. He wonders when God will intervene in judgment on his enemies who persecute him and are threatening him with death.

The most natural thing in the world is to ask questions when you are in desperate straits. He doesn't complain against God, but he has questions.

This requires faith, for we walk by faith not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7).

> When the Father allows His children to go into the furnace of affliction, He keeps His eye on the clock and His hand on the thermostat. He knows how long and how much. – ***Warren Wiersbe***

85 The proud have dug pits for me, Which is not according to Your law.

His enemies are wicked people who have no regard for the Word of God. They specifically set traps for him, trying to bring him down (cf. Ps. 35:7; Prov. 16:27; Jer. 18:22; Eccl. 10:8; Ps. 7:15-16; 57:6; Ex. 21:33-34). Digging a pit for someone implies malicious plans to destroy someone. This is the exact opposite of loving your neighbor.

<u>Slide # 5</u>

> **Proverbs 26:27 (NKJV)**
> **27** Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, And he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him.

86 All Your commandments are faithful; They persecute me wrongfully; Help me!

All the commandments of God are dependable! They provide principles that cannot be violated without consequences – such as you reap as you have sown.

And so he cries out to God, “They persecute me wrongfully; Help me!” Again his situation is desperate.

“Help me!” is said to be the “golden prayer.” It is a short prayer that gets right to the point.

> “Many a time have these words been groaned out by troubled saints, for they are such as suit a thousand conditions of need, pain, distress, weakness, and sin. ‘*Help,* Lord,’ will be a fitting prayer for youth and age, for labor and suffering, for life and death. No other help is sufficient, but God’s help is all-sufficient, and we cast ourselves upon it without fear.” - ***Charles Spurgeon***

87 They almost made an end of me on earth, But I did not forsake Your precepts.

Looking back, he says, “They ALMOST made an end of me.” It was close! They almost had him, but not quite. The key word is ALMOST!

Slide # 6

> **Psalm 68:20 (NKJV)**
> **20** Our God is the God of salvation; And **to God the Lord belong escapes from death.**

We are immortal until our work is done! God is sovereignly in control of our destiny – not our enemies. And many times it seems there is no way out, and then God comes to the rescue.

The psalmist was ALMOST dead, and yet he still clung to the word of God. God’s precepts are His divine instructions.

> If we stick to the precepts, we will be rescued by the promises.
> – ***Charles Spurgeon***

88 Revive me according to Your lovingkindness, So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.

He asks that God revive him, bring him through, according to His lovingkindness. Lovingkindness is the rich Hebrew word “hesed,” meaning God’s tender, loyal covenant-keeping love. He is saying, “*God, in keeping with your faithfulness revive me.”*

His prayer is not selfish. He asks this to the end that he may continue to go forth and glorify God through obedience to His Word.

Note that he specially defines the Word of God as “the testimony of Your [God’s] mouth.”

> The psalmist rightly understood that the word of God actually came from the **mouth** of God. God used human authors, and those human authors expressed their personality through the inspired writings, yet God so directed those human authors that what they wrote could accurately be called words from the **mouth** of God. – ***David Guzik***

> The testimony of God's mouth must be given in words: God's heart has thoughts, but God's mouth has words; and words from the omniscient and true God must be infallible. - ***Charles Spurgeon***

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

This is one of the highlight verses in Psalm 119.

Forever, God's Word is settled in heaven. Settled literally means "stands firm and unchanging." Because it is settled in heaven, it will not change on earth.

> "After tossing about on a sea of trouble the Psalmist here leaps to shore and stands upon a rock. [YHWH's] word is not fickle nor uncertain; it is settled, determined, fixed, sure, immovable. Man's teachings change so often that there is never time for them to be settled; but the Lord's word is from of old the same, and will remain unchanged eternally. - ***Charles Spurgeon***

Isaiah 40:8 says…

> **Isaiah 40:8 (NKJV)**
> **8** The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."

People come and go, but the word of God stands forever!

What is settled in heaven is unchanging on earth!

Slide # 7

> **Psalm 119:89 (NKJV)**
> **89** Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.
>
> **Matthew 24:35 (NKJV)**
> **35** Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

Jesus said, "till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled." The jot is the smallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet, and the tittle is a little marking like the crossing of a t.

Slide # 8

· The difference between *bet* (**ב**) and *kaf* (**כ**) is a *tittle*.
· The difference between *dalet* (**ד**) and *resh* (**ר**) is a *tittle*.
· The difference between *vav* (**ו**) and *zayin* (**ז**) is a *tittle*.

These are small, tiny, almost insignificant differences – yet Jesus said that even these smallest differences would not pass away from God's word. He said that heaven and earth would sooner pass away than a *yod* or a tittle from the word of God. Truly, **Your word is settled in heaven**. ***-David Guzik***

Faith is not a leap in the dark. It is based on the surest thing in the universe – the Bible. There is no risk in believing a word that is fixed firmly and forever in heaven. ***– William MacDonald***

90 Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides.

God's Word is forever settled in heaven, and consequently His faithfulness endures to all generations on earth. There has never been a generation in which God has not proven Himself faithful.

And to demonstrate his point, he uses the established ordinances that faithfully regulate life on earth. God established the earth, and it abides. It's not going anywhere. In the end, it will be made new, but it is not going anywhere. This is an illustration of God's faithfulness to all generations.

"Throughout much of this time, the Bible was an object of extreme hatred by many in authority. They tried to stamp it out, but the text survived. In the early days of the church, [Philosophers] Celsus, Porphyry, and Lucien tried to destroy it by their arguments. Later, the emperors Diocletian and Julian tried to destroy it by force. In some periods of history it was a capital offense to possess a copy of the Bible. Yet the text survived." - ***James Montgomery Boice***

91 They continue this day according to Your ordinances, For all are Your servants.

The fixed order of the world continues to this day according to God's ordinances. They all serve the purposes of God, showing His sovereign faithfulness.

> Heaven and earth obey His laws. Seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night are all God's servants.
> – ***William MacDonald***

Slide # 9

> **Genesis 8:22 (NKJV)**
> **22** "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."

> "There is constancy and order in all of creation, reflecting the 'faithfulness' of the Lord." - ***Willem A. VanGemeren***

92 Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction.

Talk about finding your strength in the Word! It was the Word that brought him through. God met him in the Word and kept him keeping on. And through it all he came to delight in the Word!

> "I should have sunk a thousand times," said a most excellent, but much afflicted man to me, "if it had not been for one declaration in the Word of God, 'The Eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms.'" [Deut. 33:27]– ***Albert Barnes***

93 I will never forget Your precepts, For by them You have given me life.

When one has felt the power of the Word in depths of desperation to where you wonder if you are going to survive, it becomes precious. In such a case, one is not likely to FORGET God's life-giving truths. The Word is living and powerful!

Charles Spurgeon shared the following story about a poor destitute old widow.

> "Carefully did she expend her little stock – a pennyworth of this and the other necessities of life nearly exhausted all she had. She came to the last penny, and with a singular expression of heroic contentment and cheerful resignation on her wrinkled face, she said, '*Now* I must buy oil with this, that I may see to read my Bible during these long dark nights, for it is my only comfort now when every other comfort has gone *away.*'" - ***Alexander Wallace, cited in Spurgeon***

94 I am Yours, save me; For I have sought Your precepts.

His request is based fundamentally on his personal relationship with the Lord, and it was a deep, confident relationship steeped in the Word.

> The basis of this confidence was a relationship built upon the word of God (**Your precepts**). This was not a relationship built upon feelings or subjective experiences, but upon the solid foundation of God's word. – ***David Guzik***

> The verb translated "sought" in verse 94 means "to consult, to inquire, to beat a path, to read repeatedly." Here is a believer who beat a path to the Bible, read it over and over…- ***Warren Wiersbe***

Where one looks for answers, for comfort, for strength says volumes about where the person is at in relation to the Lord.

95 The wicked wait for me to destroy me, But I will consider Your testimonies.

Again, we see how intense this situation was. It was a life-threatening context with the wicked intent on destroying him. His response was not to panic or to respond in the flesh, but rather to find refuge in the Word.

They were waiting to destroy him, but he was waiting on the Lord through the Word.

96 I have seen the consummation of all perfection, But Your commandment is exceedingly broad.

This verse makes an awesome statement about the Word. Perfection is the idea of completion. There are many "fixed" things in life that are limited, but in contrast, the Word is inexhaustible and unlimited.

> The psalmist considered the excellent things he had seen in this world. Perhaps he thought of the things of great natural beauty…the small things of intricate creation…the beauty of human love and care. Yet, all these things have a **consummation** – in the sense of a limit or a barrier. The best things of this world only go so far.
>
> – ***David Guzik***

All the "perfections" of this life have their limits.

> Of ‘all perfection’ in this world, whether of beauty, wit, learning, pleasure, honor, or riches, experience will soon show us the ‘end.’ But where is the end or boundary of the word of God?
>
> - ***George Horne***

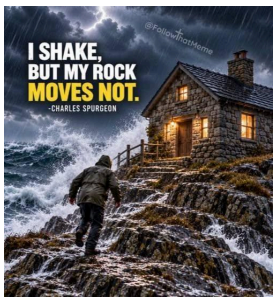
Yes, there are many great things in this life; there are many beautiful things, many profound things, and yet there is something greater – the Word of God, which is exceedingly broad in the sense that it is not limited like the things of this life. Yes, it is “exceedingly broad” in that it is unfathomable. It is an inexhaustible source of wisdom for all that we have to deal with in life.

The more you study the Bible, the more there is to study. The deeper you go in the Word, the more depth you discover. We can never plumb the depths of it. There is always more! It ever grows deeper and wider! It is boundless!

One of the special highlights about the Word is found in Psalm 119:89, “Forever, O LORD, Your Word is settled in heaven.” No matter the crisis we are going through, this is our Rock! The Word is settled and unchanging. We can always depend on it!

> Sentiments fluctuate so constantly… As for myself, I shall continue to be unfashionable, and abide where I am. ‘Sticking in the mud,’ says somebody. ‘Standing on the Rock,’ say I. - ***Charles Spurgeon***

Slide # 10



Our Rock is the truth of God, the truth that God’s Word is FOREVER settled in heaven! No matter how much we might shake, the ROCK of God’s Word will not shake. It is forever settled in heaven!

It stands firm for time and eternity!

Rest your soul there!