

# a synopsis of PSALM 119

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The Apostle Paul held the Word of God in highest esteem: inspired, able to correct and enliven us, the sword of the Spirit (2 Timothy 3:16, 17; Ephesians 6:17). Hebrews 4:12 says it's the sharpest and most powerful of all two-edged swords. The unknown writer of Psalm 119 exalts it as a treasure and light that will make us solid in the midst of an ungodly world in trouble. This longest chapter in the Bible is unusual in style: made up of 22 stanzas, each with eight verses. Each stanza stands alone. When together, the 119th Psalm becomes a great anthem of praise for God's Word. Psalm 119 might be summarized like this:

1. **1-8.** The Bible reveals the graciousness of God, and creates the desire and joy of walking in God's good paths
2. **9-16.** Internalizing the Word of God serves as a fortress in our personal war with sin
3. **17-24.** The truths of God's Word provide counsel to face the attacks that come our way
4. **25-32.** God's Word keeps us honest with ourselves and encourages us in our daily walk with the Lord
5. **33-40.** Eagerness to understand God's Word creates an atmosphere of true life that "things" cannot give
6. **41-48.** Delight and trust in the Bible gives hope, freedom, and confidence for living
7. **49-56.** The promises of Scripture comfort us in the troubles stirred up by arrogant mockers of our faith
8. **57-64.** Those who are firmly anchored in the Word and create fellowship with others like them find strength to resist the drag of sin that is always in front of us
9. **65-72.** Hard times bring God's discipline, but can also drive us back to the Word where we find His tenderness and fellowship that is worth more than gold and silver
10. **73-80.** Following God's Word—not just knowing it—brings joy not only to our own lives but also to others who love God
11. **81-88.** A refusal to abandon the Scriptures in times of trouble bring the refreshment of God's love and comfort
12. **89-96.** The eternal Word of God stands firm in the heavens, a solid Rock on which to build life
13. **97-104.** Meditating on the Word of God provides wisdom and insight to the true way of life
14. **105-112.** Scripture is a treasure—a light guiding us away from the darkness that destroys us
15. **113-120.** Scripture warns us against divided loyalties. God and God alone is the only refuge and shield that can be trusted
16. **121-128.** Every commandment of God is right. As we keep our eyes focused on Him we will see the truth of His promises
17. **129-136.** Love for the Word is a light making us victorious over the evil rulers of this world's darkness
18. **137-144.** We can believe the Scripture is trustworthy and right for every situation because Scripture is the Word of God—the voice of Him who is Truth and Righteousness
19. **145-152.** The more we meditate on the Word—day and night—the greater the likelihood of victory in our struggle
20. **153-160.** Confidence in the truth of Scripture is a powerful tool when we find ourselves in the midst of adversity
21. **161-168.** Love for the Word of God brings peace and steadiness as we walk through the valley of deep darkness
22. **169-176.** Remembering the truth of the Word is worth everything when we are tripped up by our sin and shortcomings

Pearl of Great Price in this psalm: "I have wandered away like a lost sheep; come and find me, for I have not forgotten your commands (119: 176 NLT). Now that's good news, good news indeed!

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