

## Psalm 119 (Part 4)

10/13/2024

In recent lessons on Psalm 119 we have taken time to observe a few of the many important points and concepts found in it, and taken time to separate them out and examine them a little closer on their own. In keeping with this idea in today's lesson we will look at the various types of action that can be taken on our part with regard to God's Word.

One of the most recognized accounts in all of the Bible is recorded in Exodus chapter 14. The parting of the Sea and the people of Israel passing through it on dry land. As we begin this lesson I would like to read part of that account to you. But before I do I ask that you to try and forget what you already know about this event. Try and place yourself in this scene as being one of those Israelites who don't know what is about to happen and are called upon to do what God directs them to through Moses.

*"When the king of Egypt was told that the people had fled, the mind of Pharaoh and his servants was changed toward the people, and they said, "What is this we have done, that we have let Israel go from serving us?" So he made ready his chariot and took his army with him, and took six hundred chosen chariots and all the other chariots of Egypt with officers over all of them. And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued the people of Israel while the people of Israel were going out defiantly. The Egyptians pursued them, all Pharaoh's horses and chariots and his horsemen and his army, and overtook them encamped at the sea, by Pi-hahiroth, in front of Baal-zephon.*

*When Pharaoh drew near, the people of Israel lifted up their eyes, and behold, the Egyptians were marching after them, and they feared greatly. And the people of Israel cried out to the Lord. They said to Moses, "Is it because there are no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us in bringing us out of Egypt? Is not this what we said to you in Egypt: 'Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians'? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness." And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, **stand firm**, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will work for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall never see again. The Lord will fight for you, and **you have only to be silent.**"*

How did you do?

The Hebrew word used here translated as 'stand firm' (ESV) or 'stand still' (KJV) is *yâtsab* pronounced *yaw-tsab* meaning - to place (any thing so as to stay); reflexively to station, offer, continue.

Again if you didn't already know the outcome of this account and were among those individuals Moses was leading, would you have stood still or firmly in place as the Egyptian army was approaching you?

Next we want to look at another place in Scripture where people are called to stand firm.

Paul often called for standing firm in his letters. Paul's use of idea standing firm is somewhat different from that found in Exodus. In the following verses from Ephesian chapter 6 we see

Paul using the Greek words *histēmi* pronounced his'-tay-mee - meaning to make a stand, and *anthistēmi* pronounced *anth-is'-tay-mee* to make a stand against as in resisting. We might say in Exodus God directed Moses to have the Israelites not move, be static, and let God handle the situation. Where as Paul calls for those to whom he was writing to be kinetic - take action.

*Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand (histemi) against the wiles of the devil. (Ephesians 6:11 KJV)*

*“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand (anthistemi) in the evil day, and having done all, to stand (histemi).” (Ephesians 6:13 KJV)*

*“Stand (histemi) therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;” (Ephesians 6:14 KJV)*

Then there is another word for stand Paul uses when writing to the church at Corinth. It is the Greek word *stēkō* pronounced *stay'-ko* - meaning to persevere.

*“Be on your guard; stand (steko) firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong.”  
(1st Corinthians 16:13)*

In Psalm 119 the writer reminds us of actions we can manifest in our lives concerning God's Word. Ways in which we can stand firm.

We Begin in verse -

**4.** *“You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.”*

The first thing we need to recognize from this passage is that God is Commanding something of us. To keep His precepts.

The word '**diligently**' used here is the the Hebrew word '*me 'ôd*' pronounced *meh-ode*' - meaning **vehemently**; by implication **wholly, speedily, exceedingly** etc. (often with other words as an intensive or superlative; especially when repeated)

Diligence in keeping God's precepts. Precepts in Hebrew = *Piqqud* pronounced *pik-kood*'. Defined as properly *appointed*, that is, a *mandate* (of God; plural only, collectively for the *Law*)

Thus in Psalm 119:4 God is calling for action on our part.

This morning we will focus on just some of the verses in Psalm 119 which speak of the actions of the Psalmist with regard to God's commands. Notice the command in verse 4 and the response here in verse 8.

**8.** *“I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me!”*

**30.** *I have chosen the way of faithfulness;  
I set your rules before me.*

**31.** *I cling to your testimonies, O Lord; \*\*\*  
let me not be put to shame!*

32. I will run in the way of your commandments (Paul run the race)  
when you enlarge my heart!

44. "I will keep your law continually,  
forever and ever,

45. and I shall walk in a **wide place**,  
for I have sought your precepts.

**Wide place** (ESV), **at liberty** (KJV), **Freedom** (NIV). Hebrew - *râchâb* pronounced *raw-khawb'* - roomy, in any (or every) direction, literally or figuratively.  
There isn't any place I can go where God's precepts do not apply!

55. "I remember your name in the night, O Lord,  
and keep your law."

57. "The Lord is my portion; (so far we have 'keeping' God's precepts, statutes, law, words)  
I promise to keep your words."

58. "I entreat your favor with all my heart; (welcome your favor)  
be gracious to me according to your promise."

59. "When I think on my ways,  
I turn my feet to your testimonies;"

60. "I hasten and do not delay (Hasten = to be quick. See definition of 'diligently' above)  
to keep your commandments."

61. "Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, (I do not forget in perilous situations)  
I do not forget your law."

63. "I am a companion of all who fear you, (Preferring one another - Romans 12:10 KJV)  
of those who keep your precepts."

74. "Those who fear you shall see me and rejoice,  
because I have hoped in your word." (Being a good example to others)

75. "I know, O Lord, that your rules are righteous,  
and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me."

77. "Let your mercy come to me, that I may live;  
for your law is my delight."

78. "Let the insolent be put to shame,  
because they have wronged me with falsehood;  
as for me, I will meditate on your precepts."

81. "My soul longs for your salvation;  
I hope in your word."

82. "My eyes long for your promise;  
I ask, "When will you comfort me?"
83. "For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke, (Old, dried up, seeming useless)  
yet I have not forgotten your statutes."
84. "How long must your servant endure?  
When will you judge those who persecute me? (Enduring to the end)
87. "They have almost made an end of me on earth,  
but I have not forsaken your precepts."
93. "I will never forget your precepts,  
for by them you have given me life." (The reward for verses 84 & 87)
94. "I am yours; save me,  
for I have sought your precepts." (Hope, Blessed Assurance)
95. "The wicked lie in wait to destroy me,  
but I consider your testimonies."
97. "Oh how I love your law!  
It is my meditation all the day."
99. "I have more understanding than all my teachers,  
for your testimonies are my meditation."
100. "I understand more than the aged,  
for I keep your precepts."
101. "I hold back my feet from every evil way, (Discipline)  
in order to keep your word."
102. "I do not turn aside from your rules,  
for you have taught me."
103. "How sweet are your words to my taste, (1st Peter 2:3 tasted the Lord is good)  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!"
104. "Through your precepts I get understanding;  
therefore I hate every false way." (Proverbs 6:16-19)
105. "Your word is a lamp to my feet (light enables us to see, and Seeing is an action)  
and a light to my path."
106. "I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,  
to keep your righteous rules."

109. *"I hold my life in my hand continually, (I am responsible for my own actions. Ezekiel!) but I do not forget your law."*
110. *"The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts."*
111. *"Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart."*
112. *"I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end." (To feel willing or favorably disposed toward an action, belief, or attitude).*
113. *"I hate the double-minded, but I love your law."*
114. *"You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in your word."*
119. *"All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross, therefore I love your testimonies."*
120. *"My flesh trembles for fear of you, and I am afraid of your judgments."  
(Do not be afraid of those who kill the body kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Matthew 10:28)*
123. *"My eyes long for your salvation and for the fulfillment of your righteous promise."*
127. *"Therefore I love your commandments above gold, above fine gold."*
128. *"Therefore I consider all your precepts to be right; I hate every false way."*
129. *"Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them."*
131. *"I open my mouth and pant, because I long for your commandments."*
136. *"My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law."*
139. *"My zeal consumes me, because my foes forget your words."*
140. *"Your promise is well tried, and your servant loves it."*

141. *"I am small and despised,  
yet I do not forget your precepts."*
143. *"Trouble and anguish have found me out,  
but your commandments are my delight."*
145. *"With my whole heart I cry; answer me, O Lord!  
I will keep your statutes."*
146. *"I call to you; save me,  
that I may observe your testimonies."*
147. *"I rise before dawn and cry for help;  
I hope in your words."*
148. *"My eyes are awake before the watches of the night,  
that I may meditate on your promise."*
153. *"Look on my affliction and deliver me,  
for I do not forget your law."*
157. *"Many are my persecutors and my adversaries,  
but I do not swerve from your testimonies."*
159. *"Consider how I love your precepts!  
Give me life according to your steadfast love."*
161. *"Princes persecute me without cause,  
but my heart stands in awe of your words." (Unlike those in Jeremiah 2:19)*
162. *"I rejoice at your word  
like one who finds great spoil." (Precious pearl - Matthew 13:46)*
163. *"I hate and abhor falsehood,  
but I love your law."*
164. *"Seven times a day I praise you  
for your righteous rules."*
166. *"I hope for your salvation, O Lord,  
and I do your commandments."*
167. *"My soul keeps your testimonies;  
I love them exceedingly."*
168. *"I keep your precepts and testimonies,  
for all my ways are before you." (Hebrews 4:12-13)*

171. *“My lips will pour forth praise,  
for you teach me your statutes.”*

172. *“My tongue will sing of your word,  
for all your commandments are right.”*

173. *“Let your hand be ready to help me,  
for I have chosen your precepts.”*

174. *“I long for your salvation, O Lord,  
and your law is my delight.”*

176. *“I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant,  
for I do not forget your commandments.”*

We all like sheep have gone astray and fall short of the Glory of God. Here we have seen from The Psalmist how we should look upon the Word of God and many things we can **actively do** to draw nearer to God.