**How To Understand The Bible ~A Study of Psalm 119**

Psalm 119 is the longest Psalm and it deals with guiding us to know and understand the Word of God.

**Ps. 119:18,** **Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions.**

Therefore, we need the knowledge of God’s Word to have spiritual power.

We need to be molded, motivated and managed by God’s Word.

**To Fully Grasp God’s Word We Must:**

**1. Appreciate The Virtues Of God’s Word:**

**The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!**

**Psalm 119** says **“Your eternal word, O Lord,  stands firm in heaven”.**

**Psalm 119:152 I have known from my earliest days that your laws will last forever.**

**Verse 160** says, **The very essence of your words is truth; all your just regulations will stand forever.**

**I Peter 1:25** “**the Word of God endures forever**”; it is timeless, ultimate and indestructible.

**The Bible is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Psalm 119:142, 151, 160.**

**142Your justice is eternal, and your instructions are perfectly true.**

**151But you are near, O Lord, and all your commands are true.**

**160The very essence of your words is truth; all your just regulations will stand forever.**

**II Tim. 3:16**, **“all scripture is given by inspiration of God”.**

The Bible is truth because God cannot speak error.

**The Bible is to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:**

**Psalm 119:72, Your instructions are more valuable to me than millions in gold and silver.**

**2. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Word of God:**

**The Bible is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,**

**Heb. 4:12, For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.**

It is **powerful** from the Greek ***Energes***meaning **effective.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  over the word of God to assimilate/understand it,

**Psalm 119:12**, **I praise you, O Lord; teach me your decrees.**

God will open your eyes to behold the wondrous things of His word. As you pray God’s Word your heart will be stirred **Psalm 119:36**, **Give me an eagerness for your laws rather than a love for money!**

Pray that your mind will be  **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**; **Psalm 119:73, You made me; you created me.  Now give me the sense to follow your commands.**

When you pick up God’s Word, pray over it and ponder / meditate over it.

As you read the Bible use your sanctified common sense. Don’t just jump in the middle of a chapter or a book. Consider what you are reading.

**Ask yourself; is this a precept, a prophecy, is it poetry, is it a prose, it is a proverb, is it a promise or principle.**

**Precept:** a general rule intended to regulate behavior or thought.

 Ex. The Ten Commandments

**Prophecy:** a divinely inspired utterance or revelation

 Ex. Messianic Prophecies. Book of Revelation

**Poetry:** the purpose of poetry is not to clearly describe events or to give us instructions.  Instead, poetry is emotional; it gives us a feeling—it is not propositional.

Ex: Psalm 42:1, As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. Also: Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes, & “Songs or Chants”

**Prose:** It is our normal language. There’s no rhythmic structure, it has a normal flow.

Contrast the Prose & Poetry: It’s of an account in the book of Judges describing the same event. Judges 4:17-21 & Judges 5:24-27

**Proverb:** It is an example of the **Biblical** wisdom tradition, and raises questions of values, moral behavior, the meaning of human life, and right conduct. Ex. Proverbs 31, Prov. 3:5-6

**Promise:** Promises are always fulfilled 100 percent of the time. 2 Cor. 1:20

**Principles:** state general truths.

The book of Proverbs is often mistaken for a book of promises, when in fact it is a book of principles. The principle of “train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it” ([Prov. 22:6](https://www.esv.org/Prov.%2022%3A6/)) is generally true and wise to heed. But it is not a guarantee that every child raised with godly instruction will become a believer in Jesus.

**As You Study Ask Yourself These Questions:**

1. **Is there a promise to claim?**
2. **Is there a lesson to learn?**
3. **Is there a blessing to enjoy?**
4. **Is there a command to obey?**
5. **Is there a sin to avoid?**
6. **Is there a new thought to carry with me?**

 **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God: Psalm 119:11,16;**

**11I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.**

**16I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word.**

 **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** memory comes with concentration, motivation and use.

You do this by cultivating your mind. Fill your mind with God’s Word, so what’s inside will flow forth blessings and honor to god.

 **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Word**:

**Psalm 119:1–5**, **1Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the Lord. 2Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts. 3They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in his paths. 4You have charged us to keep your commandments carefully. 5Oh, that my actions would consistently reflect your decrees!**

It is not enough to recite promises without obeying the commandments.

The more you obey the more you will learn.

**Psalm 119:13, 27, 46, 172.**

**13I have recited aloud all the regulations you have given us.**

**27Help me understand the meaning of your commandments, and I will meditate on your wonderful deeds.**

**46I will speak to kings about your laws, and I will not be ashamed.**

**172Let my tongue sing about your word, for all your commands are right.**

Let the word be constantly in your mouth, store it in your heart, show it in your life and sow it in the world.

The more you give God’s word away the more it will stay with you.

**3. Appreciate the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God’s Word:**

If you do not love, know, understand, practice, and obey the Word of God, you *cannot* be a victorious Christian. The Bible is not an ordinary book!

• **The Word of God is your source of Victory:** Psalm 119:45 God’s Word is your source of victory to overcome Satan in the wilderness / dry times.

• **The Word of God is your source of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:** Psalm 119:32; I Peter 2:2 You cannot spiritually grow with just a Sunday sermon. You must learn to feed yourself with god’s word. Read it, study it, and meditate it daily.

 • **The Word of God is your Source of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:**

 Psalm 119:54; 111; John 15:1

 • **The Word of God is your source of Power:**

 Psalm 119:28; Heb. 4:12

 **• The Word of God is your source of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:**

 **Psalm 119:105, Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.**

God’s Word will show you the way, just trust Him. Whatever you desire: joy, power, guidance and spiritual growth, God will give it to you.

However, you can only appropriate after you assimilate and appreciate.

**PSALM 119**

the Word of God **blesses us** (vv. 1–8)

to the Word of God **cleanses us** (vv. 9–16),

to the Word of God **reveals wondrous things** (vv. 17–24),

to the Word of God **revives us** (vv. 25–32),

to the Word of God **teaches us** (vv. 33–40),

to the Word of God **saves us** (vv. 41–48),

to the Word of God **gives us hope** (vv. 49–56),

to the Word of God **reveals mercy** (vv. 57–64),

to the Word of God **in affliction** (vv. 65–72),

to the Word of God **in comfort** (vv. 73–80),

to the Word of God **in persecution** (vv. 8 1–88),

to the Word of God **is eternal** (vv. 89–96),

to the Word of God **gives us wisdom** (vv. 97–104),

to the Word of God **is light** (vv. 105–112),

to the Word of God **brings us godly fear** (vv. 113–120),

to the Word of God **is vindicated** (vv. 121–128),

to the Word of God **gives us light** (vv. 129–136),

to the Word of God **is righteous** (vv. 137–144),

to the Word of God **is to be obeyed** (vv. 145–152),

to the Word of God **revives us** (vv. 153–160),

to the Word of God **brings awe** (vv. 161–168)

the Word of God **as our delight** (vv. 169–176).