

# The Heart-felt Supplication of a Humble Servant

*Psalm 119:169-176*

Pastor Michael Lynn / West Hampden Baptist Church

*April 26, 2023 p.m.*

Introduction: We come tonight to the concluding 8 verses of Psalm 119 with each verse starting with the Hebrew letter “*Tau*.” Each verse in this section (except 174) is a prayer (as is most of the entire psalm). Wiersbe simply entitles these verses: “Hear My Prayer” & he outlines it: “I need Your Word (:169-172); I need Your hand (:173); I need Your salvation (:174); I need Your help (:175); & I am Your servant (:176).” I see the theme as: The heart-felt supplication of a humble servant, with the psalmist’s cry for (:169-170), praise of (:171-172), delight in (:173-174), & dependence upon God’s Word (:175-176). The question (as asked similarly before) is: “Could this be the prayer of your heart tonight?”

## I. The psalmist’s cry for God’s Word (:169-170)

### A. The expression of his cry >

1. “*Cry*” - “the outward expression of urgent entreaty in a shrill passionate outcry” (Kirkpatrick).
2. “*Supplication*” – Both words are personified, as if to represent themselves as messengers before God’s throne.

### B. The expectation from his cry >

1. “*Understanding*” – heavenly wisdom; Divine teaching.
2. “*Deliver me*” – to pluck or take; from physical or spiritual trouble?

## II. The psalmist’s praise of God’s Word (:171-172)

### A. Praise for the teaching of God’s statutes (:171) >

1. “He prays for a spirit of joyous, exuberant thankfulness for God’s continuous teaching” (Kirkpatrick).
2. His lips will pour forth (“*utter*”) praise because wisdom comes from the learning of God’s statutes.

### B. Praise for the righteousness of God’s commandments (:172) >

1. His heart responds to the truth of God’s Word, a desire to share it with others.
2. “A renewed man’s heart loves every part of Scripture for it is *righteousness* itself” (Plumer).  
Summary: “No good man is content to go to heaven alone. Yet it is sad how few promptly embrace opportunities to speak a word for God” (Plumer).

## III. The psalmist’s delight in God’s Word (:173-174)

### A. His desire (“*chosen*”) of God’s precepts (:173) >

1. He has chosen & continues to choose...
2. “God’s *hand* is strong, is ready, is far-reaching, & is sure to bring deliverance” (Plumer).

### B. His delight in God’s law (:174) >

1. “*Longed for*” – a steadfast, continual desire for deliverance & complete spiritual salvation.
2. “*Delight*” – literally “delights” (Hebrew plural); speaks of abundant source of pleasure to the psalmist.

#### IV. The psalmist's dependence upon God's Word (:175-176)

##### A. God's Word preserves life (:175) >

1. His prayer is for "life prolonged, revived, invigorated, freed from persecutions & trials which impede & prevent the exercise of its full activities (Kirkpatrick).
2. "The *judgments* are the decisions of God's Word as executed in His providence" (Plumer).  
Summary: Eternal life is a present possession, starting in this life (see John 17:3).

##### B. God's Word protects steps (:176) >

1. This verse could be interpreted: "If I go astray, seek Thy servant like a lost sheep" (cf. this analogy with Isaiah 53:6; Jeremiah 1:6; Matthew 10:6; 15:24).
2. "As a sheep is a silly & helpless thing, & when lost never finds itself, but wanders on, till the shepherd *seeks* it; so the soul of man must be brought back from its errors & miseries by the Lord Himself" (Plumer).

Conclusion: Does your heart cry out (spiritually) for God's Word? Do you praise Him for giving you His Word? Is your delight found in God's Word? Are you dependent upon God's Word to preserve your life & protect your steps? Plumer declares, "Come what will, let us hold on to the truth, think of it, remember it, love it, & obey it."

In Psalm 119 the writer has recorded his spiritual journey, with its ups & downs. But he continually finds his comfort & confidence in God's Word. He opens the psalm with a benediction, "*Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD*" (119:1), then closes with a warning to the believer not to be overconfident, lest he stray from the Lord. Wiersbe concludes, "The psalmist was still the servant of God & not the servant of sin, & still remembered God's Word, so he would not stray for long. The Good Shepherd would find him & lead him back to the fold." I would describe this straying as a time of discouragement or even despair. But the Lord knows those that are His (II Timothy 2:19), & He promises encouragement & strength in our time of need. Promises in this Psalm include awakening when slumbering, quickening when distressed, reviving when in danger, defended & delivered when assailed by the enemy.

Can you claim such promises for yourself tonight?