

## SummerInThePsalms #5 – Give Me Liberty! Psalm 119:41-48

Intro: **This is the week of July 4!**

We celebrate of 249 years of independence as a Nation. There will be **fireworks and festivities, remembrance and reflections.**

I love our history. I love learning of our incredible founders who, trusting God and risking all, forged a new nation that has since changed the world and eternity. They were an incredible group of people who shared an acknowledgement of God, an adherence to His principles, and dependence on His providence.

One of my favorites was Patrick Henry. On March 23, 1775, he stirred delegates at the Second Virginia Convention, which included George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, with his fiery declaration – **“Give me liberty, or give me death!”**

**As great as the liberty we again celebrate this July 4, there is an even greater.**

Our founding fathers declared on July 4, 1776,

***“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”***

**They acknowledged: our eternal God is the source of life, love and liberty.**

**Jesus**, when he began His ministry, walked into the synagogue in Nazareth and opened the book of Isaiah. Luke records that He read the prophecy of Isaiah:

Luke 4

18. The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, **to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,**

19. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

20. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

21. And he began to say unto them, **This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.**

A thousand years before, David wrote, recorded and even sang of true, lasting liberty for all. He wrote, **"I walk at liberty"**, which, in context, pretty much means, **"Give me liberty!"**

There is a deeper liberty—one not declared in Philadelphia, but sung in Jerusalem. Not sealed by ink, but by blood. **And Psalm 119 invites us to walk in it.**

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Psalm 119 is one of the most remarkable passages in all of Scripture. It is unique because it is an alphabetic acrostic, with each of its 22 sections (representing the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet) containing eight verses, all beginning with the same Hebrew letter.

Our section begins with the sixth letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and **right in the middle of it is "Liberty"**.

In Hebrew, the verses are a continual thought, each verse beginning with "and". It is a flowing, developing idea which crescendos in meaning and importance.

### **I. The Requests. Vs. 41, Vs. 43**

**A. #1 – Mercy and salvation: vs. 41 - "Let thy mercies come also unto me... even thy salvation"**

1. **Found once and forever in Jesus:** The mercy granted eternally the moment we trust Christ as Savior.

Jesus stated that He came ***to seek and to save... To proclaim liberty... to set captives free from sin... to deliver us from death.***

He came that we might have life, and have it more abundantly.

He declared, ***If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.***" (John 8:36)

Paul revealed in Ephesians 2

4. But God, who is ***rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,***

5. Even when we were dead in sins, ***hath quickened us*** together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6. And ***hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:***

7. That in the ***ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.***

Life, Love, Liberty: All experienced forever the moment we trust Jesus!

2. **"thy mercies... even thy salvation" – Experienced breath by breath, and day by day on our journey through life.**

Jeremiah wrote in Lamentations 3

22. ***It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.***

23. ***They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.***

3. **"according to thy word"**

The great truth which develops as the words flow and build is that **the mercies of God are made real and possible through "thy word".**

David is **Requesting what only God can give—life, love, liberty—first and forever, but also daily.**

**B. Request #2 – Keep the Word on my lips! Don't let me lose the words that keep me strong! vs. 43 – ***"take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth"*****

- **There was a weakness acknowledged** resulting in the passionate request. David knew his weakness. He knew of the ebb and flow of life. He knew of the inherent possibility: Not of God failing to keep His promise but him failing to speak it, believe it, live it.
- **There was a keen awareness of the danger.**  
**Eden:** When the word of God was diminished and then disobeyed, the result was disastrous.

**John Philipps told of a little boy who**, after learning the meaning of John 3:16, trusted Jesus as his savior. That night, when he went to bed, he began to wonder. Doubt. Question. Maybe he really wasn't saved? Then, his little mind decided **it was just Satan attacking him and making him doubt**. He had been told that Satan loved darkness, and since the darkest place in his room was under his bed, he thought Satan might be hiding there. So, he opened his Bible to John 3:16, put his Bible under his bed, and said simply, **"Here! You read it for yourself!". And went to sleep.**

David prayed – **"Lord, don't let it happen!"**

**David knew the danger wasn't God going silent—it was him forgetting, hesitating, or giving in to doubt.**

So...

Then, we move **from His requests to reasons his requests for God's Word were so important!**

## **II. Reasons. (vs. 42,44,45)**

### **A. It gives me answers in a scoffing world" (v. 42)**

"Truth isn't just defensive—it's declarative. It speaks peace into confusion and courage into fear."

### **B. It lets me "walk at liberty" – Live truly free. Unchained. (vs. 45)**

**Freedom isn't found in doing whatever I want. It's found in becoming who God designed me to be!**

How do I do that? – **Learning and living His Word!**

**"I seek thy precepts"!**

Paraphrase:

My God, who gave His life that I might live forever, teach me how to live that life fully. Abundantly.

The alternative: When we rebel and in mutiny dethrone God in our lives, thinking we will live for and serve ourselves, we become enslaved to our self, sin and rebellion.

### C. It gives hope in a hopeless world. (vs. 43)

Illustration – Daniel before Nebuchadnezzar – “There is not a man upon the earth...” ... “***But there is a God in heaven!***” (Daniel 2:28)

**Hope is tethered to truth. When truth fades, so does hope. But when we hide His Word in our hearts, hope thrives!**

### III. Responses.

David wrote and sang of the only real responses that make sense.

**Billy Graham- The test of a great sermon is not people leaving saying, “What a lovely sermon” But “I will do something!”**

- ***I will trust*** – *Even when mocked* (v. 42)
- ***I will keep*** – *Not occasionally, but “forever and ever”* (v. 44)
- ***I will walk*** – *In liberty, guided by truth* (v. 45)
- ***I will speak*** – *Unashamed, even before kings* (v. 46)
- ***I will delight*** – *Not just obeying, but loving His Word* (v. 47)
- ***I lift my hands*** – *In worship, surrender, commitment* (v. 48)

**“Give me liberty, or give me death!”**

**In a world that’s redefining freedom, let’s reclaim it.**

**Not with flags or fireworks—but with faith. Let’s walk in the liberty that is ours in Jesus!**