

Wednesday Refuel

“Victory Through the Word”

Psalm 119 Vs 41-48 Part “6”

Introduction:

- When we are ensnared or trapped in a very stressful situations, our emotions and thoughts tend to run rampant.
- The stress of our circumstances can be so overwhelming that we fail to focus on what is most important.
- As a result, we may fail to realize how desperately we need God’s help in the midst of our troubles.

The author of Psalm 119 was facing serious persecution due to his stand for God’s Word.

- Because we do not know his identity, we cannot know the specific threats he faced.
- At the very least, according to these verses he was facing shame and ridicule.
- His references to appearing before government rulers suggest the possibility of imprisonment or even worse (vv. 23, 46).

However, in the heat of his troubles, he never failed to realize how desperately he needed the Lord.

- In fact, his serious situation seemed to deepen His love and dependence on God and His Word.
- Because of this, the Holy Spirit worked through him to give us this most wonderful song.¹

¹ Leadership Ministries Worldwide, [Psalms: Chapters 107–150](#), vol. III, The Preacher’s Outline & Sermon Bible (Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 2016), 120.

Psalms 119:41 Let Your mercies come also to me, O LORD—Your salvation according to Your word.

(NLT) **Waw** LORD, give me your unfailing love, the salvation that you promised me.

O: Let Your **mercies** come also to me, **O LORD**—Your **salvation** according to **Your word**.

I:

For the first time in Psalm 119, the author mentions the Lord's *mercy* (chesed), His unfailing covenant love.

Here, the word is plural "**mercies**" and refers to loving acts God performs on behalf of His covenant people (**Isaiah. 55:3** *Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant **with you**—The sure mercies of David*).

Side Note: The psalmist rightly said **mercies**, in the plural. *God's gracious mercy to us are so great that it can only be described in the plural, with mercy piled on top of mercy.* Guzik

These are not just acts of love but acts of faithfulness to His promises as well.

In desperate need of the Lord's comfort and strength, the hurting psalmist prayed for God to shower these acts on him.

He also asked the Lord to save him, to rescue him from his persecutors according to His promises²

A:

Here the psalmist acknowledged that **mercy and salvation come from God to man through the word of God.**

The word of God doesn't merely point us toward mercy and salvation, as if it were a self-help book. It actually brings mercy and salvation to us. Guzik

² Leadership Ministries Worldwide, [Psalms: Chapters 107–150](#), vol. III, The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible (Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 2016), 120.

Psalms 119:42 So shall I have an answer for him who reproaches me, For I trust in Your word.

(NLT) *Then I can answer those who taunt me, for I trust in your word.*

O: So shall I have **an answer** for him who **reproaches me**, For **I trust in Your word**.

2Timothy 1:12 For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.

I:

The psalmist asked for God's mercies for a serious reason: he needed the Lord's help to answer those who **persecuted him**.

Government officials were among those who had risen up against this faithful servant of the Lord (v. 23). Now, he was going to have to defend himself before these authoritative rulers (v. 46).

He prayed for God to empower him to answer his mockers.

Side Note: "wherewith" in the KJV here in verse 42 is the same Hebrew word translated as "word" later in this verse and throughout Psalm 119. (KJV) So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word.

The psalmist was literally asking God to give him a word to answer his persecutors.

He went on to state that he trusted God's word—what God told him to say—to be the right response to his accusers.³

A:

God has assured us repeatedly in His scripture that He cannot lie and that He is faithful:

Deuteronomy 7:9 "Therefore know that the LORD **your God**, He *is* God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those **who love Him** and **keep His commandments**;

Numbers 23:19 "God *is* not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

1Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

³ Leadership Ministries Worldwide, [Psalms: Chapters 107–150](#), vol. III, The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible (Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 2016), 120.

The psalmist trusted the Lord to give him the words to say in his defense. Jesus has given the same promise for this type of situation too:

Luke 12:11-12 "Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. 12 For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say." ⁴

The certainty of God's faithfulness to His Word is the **foundation of our hope**.

We can confidently expect the Lord to do everything He has promised us.⁵

You have to Love that The Lord is true to His Word. He cannot lie. We can trust Him fully, and we can act and speak boldly with unwavering faith that He will do all He has promised.

"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:2).⁶

⁴ Leadership Ministries Worldwide, [Psalms: Chapters 107–150](#), vol. III, The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible (Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 2016), 121.

⁵ Leadership Ministries Worldwide, [Psalms: Chapters 107–150](#), vol. III, The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible (Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 2016), 121.

⁶ Leadership Ministries Worldwide, [Psalms: Chapters 107–150](#), vol. III, The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible (Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 2016), 121.

Psalms 119:43 And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, For I have hoped in Your ordinances.

(NLT) Do not snatch your word of truth from me, for your regulations are my only hope.

O: And **take not** the **word of truth** utterly **out of my mouth**, For I have hoped in **Your ordinances**.

I:

- The psalmist asked the Lord not to take or snatch His Word from his mouth.
- The text does not state the psalmist's reason for making this request, and most commentators' opinions vary.
- In light of the previous verse, the psalmist may have been praying that God would not withhold from him the words he needed to answer his persecutors (v. 42).

In asking that God not remove His Word, the psalmist may be asking that [God's] mercy and truth continue to be with him as a sign of divine favor."

The psalmist may have feared that the Lord would withhold His Word and promises from him because of his sin.

Remember In the previous verses of this chapter, he confessed his struggle with covetousness and asked for God's help (vv. 36–37, 39).

He may have been heavily burdened by this weakness and did not want it, or anything else, to hinder God's Word from working powerfully in his life.⁷

"For I have **hoped in Your ordinances**."

In the heat of the psalmist's terrible trial, focusing on this truth lifted his troubled spirit.⁸

A:

⁷ Leadership Ministries Worldwide, *Psalms: Chapters 107–150*, vol. III, The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible (Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 2016), 121.

⁸ Leadership Ministries Worldwide, *Psalms: Chapters 107–150*, vol. III, The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible (Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 2016), 121.

Psalm 119:44 So shall I keep Your law continually, Forever and ever.

(NLT) I will keep on obeying your instructions forever and ever.

O: So shall I keep Your law **continually, Forever and ever.**

I:

- The psalmist's trials did not cause him to question, doubt, or deny God's Word.
- Nor did his trials lead him to conclude that keeping God's commandments was in vain.
- In fact it was quite the opposite: his persecution only strengthened his persistence to walk in holiness and obedience to the Lord.
- He sealed this determination by recommitting himself to obey God's holy Word forever.⁹

A:

Our response to His love and grace should be unwavering we should go all-out to **keep** His Word as long as we live.

"How can I do less than give Him my best and live for Him completely after all He's done for me?" BBC

⁹ Leadership Ministries Worldwide, [Psalms: Chapters 107–150](#), vol. III, The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible (Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 2016), 122.

Psalms 119:45 And I will walk at liberty, For I seek Your precepts.

(NLT) *I will walk in freedom, for I have devoted myself to your commandments.*

O: And I will walk at **liberty**, For **I seek** Your **precepts**.

James 1:25 But he **who looks** into the perfect law of **liberty and continues in it**, and is not a **forgetful** hearer but a **doer of the work**, this one will be **blessed in what he does**.

I:

By seeking and following God's laws, the psalmist would not live as a slave to sin.

He would not have to bear sin's consequences.

Obedying God's Word sets us free from the bondages of the world (**John. 8:32** **And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free**).

Its amazing how many people argue that God's commandments are too much.

They claim that the rules—all the *dos* and *don'ts* rob us of enjoying pleasurable things and activities.

Without question, sin is sometimes pleasurable, but only for a season, a brief period of time (**Hebrews. 11:25-26** By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter,²⁵ choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin).

Long after sin's pleasures have disappeared, its painful consequences remain.

The guilt we feel, the pain we inflict on others, the damage we do to our bodies, and the broken relationships we cause **do not disappear along with the thrills**.

However, when we keep God's commandments, we are released from sin's power over us, and we are freed from its end result: **death** (**James. 1:15** Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.).¹⁰

A:

Those who are set free by the Son of God are free indeed (**John 8:36**). The world thinks of the Christian life as a system of bondage. But those who **seek** His **precepts** are the ones who enjoy perfect **liberty**.

BBC

¹⁰ Leadership Ministries Worldwide, *Psalms: Chapters 107–150*, vol. III, The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible (Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 2016), 122.

Psalms 119:46 I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings, And will not be ashamed.

O: I will speak of Your testimonies also **before kings**, And will not be **ashamed**.

I:

The psalmist's devotion to God's Word motivated him to become bold:

He declared he would bear witness for the Lord boldly, even before leaders.

Like I said previous "Refuels" , the rulers of the land were among those who had declared their contempt for this faithful servant of God (vv. 22–23).

He was determined that, when these officials summoned him to appear before them, he would stand steadfastly on God's Word.

Fearless and unashamed, he would proclaim God's life-giving truths to those who despised him, even though they had the power to imprison and or execute him.¹¹

A:

Faith gives boldness to **speak** for Jesus even in the presence of **kings**.

How many rulers have heard the Good News from humble and often despised believers! BBC

¹¹ Leadership Ministries Worldwide, [Psalms: Chapters 107–150](#), vol. III, The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible (Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 2016), 122.

Psalms 119:47 And I will delight myself in Your commandments, Which I love.

O: And I will **delight myself** in Your **commandments, Which I love**.

Romans 7:12 *Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment **holy** and **just** and **good**.*

Romans 7:22 For I **delight in the law of God** according to the **inward man**.

I:

- Here the psalmist reemphasized his love for God's Word and his delight in keeping God's commandments.
- How could he deny God's precious Word when he loved it so dearly?
- How could he *not* commend or praise it wholeheartedly to others—including the ruthless rulers of the land—when he had enjoyed the rich blessings of obeying it?
- Even worse, how could he be unfaithful to the Lord who had revealed His unwavering love for him through His glorious Word?¹²

A:

Those who love the Bible find deep personal enjoyment in its pages.

It is a fountain of **delight**, a river of pleasure, a never-failing source of satisfaction. BBC

¹² Leadership Ministries Worldwide, [Psalms: Chapters 107–150](#), vol. III, The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible (Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 2016), 122.

Psalms 119:48 My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments, Which I love, And I will meditate on Your statutes.

O: My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments, Which I love, And I will meditate on Your statutes.

I:

The psalmist declared that he would lift up his hands to God's Word.

Lifting the hands is usually a gesture associated with prayer (**Psalm 28:2:** Hear the voice of my supplications When I cry to You, When I lift up my hands toward Your holy sanctuary. **Psalm 141:2** Let my prayer be set before You *as* incense, The lifting up of my hands *as* the evening sacrifice.).

It is also a gesture of **praise and honor** (**Psalm. 63:4** Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.).

The psalmist was *not* saying that he would pray to God's Word. **Rather**, he was saying that his love for God's commandments moved him to pray, to offer praise and honor to the Lord *for* His wonderful Word.

Also the psalmist's love for Scripture stirred him to confirm once again his commitment to meditate faithfully on it.¹³

A:

- We need to guard against anything that might rob us of the joy and blessings that flow from God's Word.
- Sin in our lives can hinder God's Word from working *in* us as well as *for* us.
- By seeking God's laws—striving with all our might to obey His commands and principles—we can enjoy the full power of God's Word in our lives and the blessings it brings.¹⁴

¹³ Leadership Ministries Worldwide, [Psalms: Chapters 107–150](#), vol. III, The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible (Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 2016), 122.

¹⁴ Leadership Ministries Worldwide, [Psalms: Chapters 107–150](#), vol. III, The Preacher's Outline & Sermon Bible (Chattanooga, TN: Leadership Ministries Worldwide, 2016), 122–123.