

As we live in this world, we frequently place our trust in structures that eventually reach their boundaries. Whether we rely on our personal stamina or our own wisdom or even looking for favorable circumstances, when expected trials or sufferings enter our lives, we often discover that human solutions run out long before our trouble ends, leaving our hearts cold and weary. Every human life eventually encounters a moment where the ground beneath seems to shift. We are not careful. We build our security on our health or our stable routines, the familiar, the long-held relationships that we have built over the years, or even a carefully planned financial future.

Yet experience teaches us that every earthly foundation remains vulnerable to change. Every software update should remind us of that. Changes in the interface, the very devices that we use, whether on a computer or on our device, there is always change. Not only our devices, but every cultural season redefines truth. Have we not seen that just in our own lifetime? Every medical diagnosis can disrupt your financial future. One medical condition can destroy and wipe you financially in an instant. And every human promise eventually hits an expiration date. We are surrounded by constant instability, spiritual friction, and human limitations. When human wisdom exhausts itself and earthly support systems crumble, where do you turn to find something that cannot be shaken?

The psalmist in Psalm 119 verses 89 and 96 addresses this universal struggle by directing our gaze away from the fragility of human circumstances and toward the eternal stability of God's truth rather than offering again a temporary solution or a superficial comfort. Scripture invites us to anchor our hearts in the word that has already been established in heaven way before time ever existed. To endure suffering without collapsing into despair, what is required is a foundation that exists entirely above the instability of this world. The stanza we are going to look at is the letter lamed. This is a Hebrew letter rather depicting a shepherd's staff. So imagine a staff that looks something with a long extended pole and then a hook at the end. And if you can imagine that in your head, it is actually the tallest letter in the Hebrew alphabet. There is no other letter like it. And it is to depict pointing to divine instruction to heaven and is to come down to us. Instructions coming down from above. So when human limits are reached, God's settled word is to constantly keep you in a place of a revived heart.

A heart that is sustained not by the things of this world but something that is outside of this world that constantly keeps you living in what God can only provide through the living and sustaining word of God. So if you will please stand out of respect of God's word. Please follow along silently as I read from Psalm 119 verses 89 to 96 beginning now in verse 89. Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven. Thy faithfulness is unto all generations. Thou hast established the earth and it abideth. They continue this day according to thine ordinances, for all are thy servants. Unless thy law had been my delight, I should then have perished in mine affliction. I will never forget thy precepts, for with them thou hast quickened me. I am thine. Save me, for I have sought thy precepts. The wicked have waited for me to destroy me, but I will consider thy testimonies. I have seen an end of all perfection, but thy commandment is exceeding broad. This is God's word. You may be seated. The psalmist opens up this stanza by anchoring his faith in the unchangeable nature of divine revelation. Forever, O Lord, thy word is

settled in heaven. God's truth is not an evolving opinion subject for debate, but a reality permanently established in the heavenly realm beyond human reach. He goes on, he says, Thy faithfulness is unto all generations. Thou hast established the earth and it abideth. They continue this day according to thine ordinances for all are thy servants. The psalmist declares in verse 89 again, the word of God is settled in heaven. Cannot be of human reach. Meaning that it is fixed beyond the reach of human speculation. It cannot be altered. It cannot be changed. Therefore, there is no room for debate. One can argue all day long and it will be idle talk. There should be no speculation with the word of God. Another way of saying it, throughout history, men have attempted to alter divine truth, whether by subtracting from it through skepticism, as the Sadducees did, or adding to it through human traditions as the Pharisees did. Yet, God's word remains unalterable in the heavenly realm. Amen.

Creation itself testifies to this enduring reality and its reliability. Verse 90 and 91 reminds us that the same God who established the earth continues to uphold it by his sovereign decree. I want to share from a Puritan writer Steven Charnock observing this verse 91. He said this about this passage. All creatures punctually observe the law he hath implanted on their nature and in their several capacities acknowledge him their sovereign. They move according to the inclinations he imprinted on them. The sea contains itself in its bounds and the sun steps not out of his sphere. The stars march in their order. When he speaks the word, the devouring fire becomes gentle. The hunger-starved lion suspend their ravenous nature towards Daniel. And the sun obeys the writ of ease God sent in Joshua's time and stands still. Who does this except God? Who can do this except God? Consider the stability of the physical laws governing our universe. The ocean tides continue their regular rhythms.

Their seasons turn in expected order and the planets maintain their precise paths across the sky. If God exercises such continuous, dependable care over the inanimate order of creation, how much more dependable is his written word to us as men and women who put their trust in him. Think about that. You are trusting a God that is perfect in order, perfect in love, perfect in all characteristics that we flaw in. You see, human theories and societal consensus will change with every passing generation. They are going to come and go. How many of you can remember some theories hundreds of years ago? Whereas the word of God is settled in heaven and you can remember it again and again and it is passed through all sorts of generations. See, but God's established truth continues to then stand, does it not? And it is undisturbed because it is settled in heaven. Before you evaluate your current hardships through the lens of your feelings, evaluate your feelings through the lens of what God has already established. Meaning, whatever you are feeling, check the word of God.

Check to see if your feelings are right or wrong through the lens of scripture. When your circumstances feel chaotic, for example, pause and meditate on the truth that God's word is settled in heaven long before your present difficulty arose. Let us continue on in verse 92 and 94. And I want you to notice here in the text in verse 92, the psalmist reflects upon severe trials here that threatened to consume him. You ever feel like that? You ever feel like your own life is threatened? Now, think about that with the most severest of all trials where you do not even know what the next step is without the grace of God's mercy protecting you and helping you and

moving you along the way. You see, what the psalmist is reflecting here in verse 92 was survival. He was thinking about survival here and was not due to personal willpower or human wisdom. He is not going and trusting himself here for survival but because God's law was his delight. That is what was helping him. He was delighting in God's word even though the feelings were contrary to what was going on. Does that make sense? You ever feel that way where life can be falling apart and yet in your soul you are delighting in God going, What is that? That is God. That is what God's word does to you. And that is why we can be like the psalmist again and again that you do not have to even think about the worst case scenario or the most severe trials. You can know that in that time there will always be delight in God's word. Always. Without a doubt. And so in verse 93, we look at the word quickened. Quickened speaks of God imparting this divine life and vigor to a soul that is weary and may be even cold or fainting under the heavy pressure of trials. And I want to share another Puritan writer. I have been reading a lot of Puritans this week. And this is from Thomas Manton. He says this about verse 93. The quickening spirit delights to work by means of the word. But though the word be the means, yet the benefit comes from God. Life comes from the fountain of life. The gospel is a sovereign plaster, but it is God's hand that must apply it and make it stick. Make it be peace, comfort, and quickening to our souls. So there is a double quickening. When from dead we are made living or when from cold and sad and heavy we are made lively. The emphasis here is talking about a believer who was once made alive first and then continues to be lively in the spirit. Do you ever wonder how can I make it to the next day to the next week the next year? If you have ever thought that way, rest in the word of God. Do not worry about tomorrow. As Jesus says, just be concerned about today. There is enough evil for today. Yes, there are things that you have to plan like Proverbs says rather, but what does it say?

It says, But let the Lord lead our steps. So there is nothing wrong with planning, but do not hold yourself to the plan. Hold it loosely. And that is a reflection of this passage. You see, we are made alive and we continue to live because of the quickening work of God's word and spirit. And so always know that he is with you. He is going to be with you through every situation. And he will never leave you ultimately cold. He will never leave you ultimately where you do not feel alive. You can trust in the Holy Spirit and his word to quicken you. That is the depth of what the Puritan writer was saying. Now look down in verse 94. The psalmist utters a rare and deeply personal prayer. And you see this repeated throughout Psalm 119. He reflects on how God's word delights in he delights in it. He trusts in it and then but he goes into prayer. It is a natural transition. I remember one person told me this and it stuck with me. He says, When you read scripture, do not divide it like I am going to have my time of reading scripture and then I am going to pray.

The idea is that you do it together. If God speaks to the word, pray. Commune with your God. That is what he is doing. The psalmist is communing with God. He is not only delighting in God's word, but he is communing with him in the word. That is what it means to be the living word in you. And so he says this, I am thine. It is like, I delight in you because I am thine. Do not you love that? He reaches out to God. I am delighting because I am thine and I know you are going to come through. And he says, Save me. We saw this right in the last stanza. And he repeats it here again because we are going to go through trials and we are going to go through heavy

trials at times. And we need to always remind ourselves, he is going to save us. He is going to save us. Not our plan is going to save us. No, he is going to save us. And this expression reflects this intimate awareness of belonging to God. Just as a devoted shepherd uses his staff to protect his own sheep, God preserves those who belong to him through the power of his word. Consider how deep physical nourishment functions when a person is recovering from a long illness.

The nourishment does not instantly change the external circumstance, but it steadily restores internal strength so the body can stand and endure. In the same manner, immersing oneself in God's promises during seasons of grief or confusion does not always alter the situation immediately. But God's promises impart deep spiritual vitality that preserves the soul from despair. He would be foolish to have you run or even walk if you cannot even stand. And we know the passage in Isaiah, right? Before you can soar, you got to start off the right way. I have been seeing this as I faithfully preach the word and sowing the seeds to you. And the result of God's word is the harvest. And I have seen that and you have seen that how God works in the sowing of our hearts. And I might not see the immediate effects when I preach the word to you. Just like a seed takes time to grow. And Jesus even said that there are four stages, is there not? So I do not expect this immediacy. But when God works, he is working behind the scenes, behind what I cannot see. And that is who I trust in. And for you to trust in, if you are receiving the word of God, you will see it bear to harvest. You will see fruit in your life. And that is the result of God's word not returning unto void. And so there have been individuals getting converted in our church.

Praise God. There are believers that are being revived. Praise God. Thomas Watson gave another Puritan writer, Thomas Watson, gave wise counsel on how we ought to approach scripture for this kind of quickening grace. Leave not off reading the Bible till you find your hearts warmed. Read the word not only as a history, but labor to be affected with it. Let it not only inform you, but inflame you. Jeremiah 23:29 puts it this way. Is not my word like as a fire, saith the Lord, and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces. That is what he meant by your hearts warmed. Fire in this context is not destructive. Fire, if you have ever been in the cold winter storm, and I love campfires. I go to the campfire. I do not stay in the cold. That is the idea. When you get into the word, does it cause this warmth in you? I feel good here. I feel comforted here. That is what he is speaking about about God's word. And then even Jesus or rather Jesus is speaking to the disciples on the road to Emmaus. And the disciples said this about Jesus in Luke 24:32. Did not our hearts burn within us as they were hearing Jesus in his word. That is where we want to be. Amen. When we listen to God's word. Now, let us go to verse 95 to 96. Verse 95 acknowledges the reality of active hostility and the surrounding danger. And again, we see this repeated theme. If you are in God in Christ, you are going to be attacked. Satan is going to try to attack you in so many ways and he is going to use wicked men and they wait to destroy you like the psalmist. Yet the psalmist response was not panic. I love this. He does not panic. He does not retaliate. He does not obsess over the fear of what is going to happen. No, instead what we see in verse 95, he made a deliberate decision to give his mind over to considering God's testimonies. Do not worry about what they think about you or what they are going to try to even do to you. Think about what he says and what he is going to do for

you. You see that? That is what testimonies mean. Watch his testimony. Watch what he is going to do in your life. And then verse 96 offers this profound conclusion regarding the nature of human life. He says this, I have seen an end of all perfection, but thy commandment is exceeding broad. Everything created by man, no matter how refined, no matter how impressive, no matter how complete it appears, eventually it will reach its boundary and come to an end. He is saying man can try to perfect something but it will always end. It will always have an expiration date. Human wisdom expires. Human systems fail and human strength eventually weakens.

But by contrast, God's commandment is exceeding broad, meaning possessing infinite depth and scope that provides sufficient guidance for every condition of the human heart across every age. There is no end. Heaven may pass and the earth may pass but what does he say? My word shall never pass away. Everything in this physical world has a limit. Do you look at it through that lens? That is what the psalmist wants us to meditate on. God's word extends infinitely beyond our greatest need. Whatever thing you think you need is greater than that need. That is what he means by exceeding broad like wow there is so much here that there is an over plus of need. Do you think of that as well? Like he is not just going to provide a little bit. No, he is going to provide exactly what is needed for that situation in God's timing. And as we reflect then in these passages, everything built on Earth comes again with an expiration date. Just look around all of the tech devices that you have. They are going to they are designed to slow down. And if you look at the most high-end vehicle on the world with all of its gadgets and all of its power, they too will rust and degrade. Human wisdom is perfect for a season, then obsolete. God's word never needs a so-called software patch. Does not need an update or a replacement. Amen. So when you are thinking about God's word, it is forever settled in heaven. Think of we are looking at this world that we live in. And I want you to really get this verse 96. What he is doing here, he is going, Okay, you see all your needs, you see all your limitations, and you see the surrounding enemies, and this is what you see. This is your vision. Okay, this is at your level. This is our at our level. This is the farthest we can see. And he goes and he says this.

He says, Okay, these obstacles, my commandments is exceeding broad. Meaning what you see, he is saying, Look at the way I see things. That is exceeding broad because he is seeing it from where. So, not only can the word not be altered or changed, but we no enemy can reach him and not alter God. What he sees, he sees perfectly. Our vantage point is just like this. Our enemies are just like this. His exceeding broad as a today's we live in an age where we have drones. I was just amazed when you set a drone and you put that thing up how expansive the view is. You can now see the curvature of the earth on a drone. And so when I saw that I was like, Wow, that is amazing. But I wonder how God sees planet Earth. It is just this little dot that we live on. And I think he cares about this little dot. He cares about this little dot that we are in. You ever think about that? He cares about everything and he wants us to expand out to see. Do not worry, he has got you. He has got you to zoom out. Ask the Lord to help you to zoom out of the situation where there is perfect peace with God. Where there is perfect love, where his word does not change, and he does not change. That is where he ends. That is where we should always end in any sort of trial we are going through, any suffering that we are going through,

that is where we should be settled. Let that be a reminder to all of us, brothers and sisters in Christ. When hostility or hardships loom, turn your focus away from the size of the threat and fix your attention on the breadth of God's promises, exceeding broad. Human solutions will hit their limit, but God's word will carry you through it all because the Lord has bound himself to us through his unchanging word. This is the way he communicates with us. We do not have to settle for a cold or routine engagement with scripture during times of troubles. You are interacting with the living word when you are living. You are interacting with a God that hears and answers your prayers. How does this psalm as most of the book of psalm points us directly to Jesus Christ? This passage does. Psalm 119:89 rather says God word is settled in heaven. This reminds us of John 1:14 that the eternal word came down from heaven and took on human flesh. Jesus Christ is the ultimate revelation of God's settled truth. Just as the psalmist noted that the wicked waited to destroy him in verse 95, Jesus was also surrounded by hostile men who plotted his death. Jesus enters into the deepest affliction and drank the cup of wrath so that we would not perish in our spiritual deadness. He endured the cross. He suffered in our place for our sins and not his for he had none that we might be saved from the ultimate judgment of sin which leads to death.

Jesus cried out his perfect trust to the father, submitting to death and was raised to victory so that he might send the quickening holy spirit to make us alive. Verse 93, John 6:63 says this, It is the spirit, this is Jesus speaking, It is the spirit that quickeneth. The flesh profiteth nothing. The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life. We cannot keep then God's exceeding broad word in our own strength. But Christ kept it perfectly for us. He secured our salvation and marking us forever as his own. And then you can say this, brothers and sisters in Christ. I am thine. What a way to say love to our wonderful savior. When earthly perfection reaches its limit, God's settled word revives and anchors the soul forever and ever. So commit then to read scripture deliberately until it deeply affects your inner spirit remaining in the text rather than treating it as a quick reading requirement. As Thomas Watson exhorted, do not leave your Bible reading until your heart is warmed. Linger in the word until you experience that burning of the heart described by the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Do not rush through your reading.

Stay with the passage until you sense the spirit comforting you in your trials and your sufferings and instructing you. Lord, where would you have me to go? What would you have me not to go? Or encouraging your inner man. Lord, I am just discouraged in my sickness. I cannot even move. Lord, speak to me in this place. When we depend solely on limited human strength, remain vulnerable to exhaustion, does it not? But whenever our circumstances deteriorate, did not go the way we planned, know this. When we immerse ourselves in God's eternal word, we receive a constant source of divine life that comforts us in affliction. No medication can do that. No therapy can do that. It is the Lord Jesus Christ himself. He preserves us because he went through all hostility, all afflictions for us. And you can rest in him. You can rest in him. Ground yourself in the Lord. Imagine us walking then through the pressures of this week, through the circumstances that we walk into this week with this kind of steady confidence in God's word. When news causes uncertainty, when work rather brings all sorts of stress, or when human efforts prove limited, you will not be swept away because you are on the rock on Christ we

stand. All other ground is sinking sand. You will rest then in the knowledge that your life belongs to God and he will save you and he will continue to do that in your life and your heart will be quickened by his spirit and your path will continue to be guided by his word. Why? Because his word never changes. It is forever settled in heaven. Amen. May God bless his word to our hearts tonight. Let us pray. Father, it is with great pleasure that we find our comfort and our true rest in knowing that the Lord Jesus Christ is our security is our very foundation and that there limitations with man and expiration dates attached to everything in this world Lord there is none for your word is exceeding broad.

Help us, Father, this week as yes, we are in the things right in the grounds of where we are in the circumstances that surround us. Help us to constantly remind ourselves of this stanza of zooming out to trust in your character and trust in your word that you will be with us that you will quicken us that you will save us through all sorts of situations if we just trust in you from beginning to end. Lord, help us to be these kinds of Christians. Lord, that we often read about in the Puritans as I was in this week, Father, because they were so close to you. They meditate on your word. They could take one verse and write a whole book on it, God, because they just took every marrow of your word, as it were. Help us to be this kind of people in a world that is rushing more quickly and moving so much more faster and wanting things to be done instantaneously. Help us not to treat your word as such. Bless our times in our times of meditation upon your word in our devotion time. Help us to also be in prayer and to make this a living experience with your word this week. Bless to that end. Father work in our people and we thank you in Jesus name. Amen.