

Psalm 119: For The Love Of Scripture!

Psalm 119:145-152

Psalm 119:145

(KJV) KOPH. I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O LORD: I will keep thy statutes.

(NIV) I call with all my heart; answer me, LORD, and I will obey your decrees.

Koch literally means “palm” and can represent the blessing of the laying on of hands. In this way, when our palms are face down and God is truly manifest over us via the Holy Ghost — with His mighty hands — you and I are the vessels of blessing. Whether we are praying over a child to fulfill God’s very best plans and purposes for their lives (Jeremiah 29:11; Philippians 1:6); or speaking a blessing over one of God’s servants to faithfully carry out the unique calling of God through their ministry:

2Timothy 1:6

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

The power of anointed palms should never be underestimated. During my own ordination just a couple of years ago, the prayer and palms of an anointed woman of God over me transformed my walk with Jesus, and imparted to me a spirit of boldness and love like I have never known! God desires for us to be supernaturally equipped for the specific ministry He has called us to — to fulfil His purposes through us to a world that needs to see miracles that only God can perform. Hallelujah!

So, the palms of God are truly over our psalmist as he cries out to His Father in heaven in Psalm 119:145. Far from being a plea bargain, the psalmist here leans into God, not as a desperate last resort, but as a matter of daily — more like moment to moment — dependence. God is no doubt familiar with and affectionate towards the cries of the psalmist. As we pray He is merciful toward the cries of our own hearts.

As has been said before, when a non-believer mocks us by saying Jesus is our crutch, we can respond by saying *yes, but He is more — He is two crutches and a stretcher!* The cross of Jesus is not for the able and arrogant but for those who have come to the end of themselves and recognize their need for a Saviour — to forgive them, to change them, and to carry them to the end.

1Corinthians 1:18

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Psalm 119:146

(KJV) I cried unto thee; save me, and I shall keep thy testimonies.

(NIV) I call out to you; save me and I will keep your statutes.

More crying? For many of us, we may not relate to extreme terror and fear. May the Lord protect us from many such instances! But for the psalmist here in this verse, his accusers

and mockers — who make many unwelcome appearances in Psalm 119 — apply pressure of a kind that causes not mere discomfort or frustration, but a call for rescue. And lest we quote 2 Timothy 1:7 and assume the psalmist is paralyzed with fear, he reminds that his God is ready to save the faithful and obedient. There is a lesson here for each of us to seek to keep short accounts with God, and to understand just how jealous He is for our communion with Him — *especially* in the presence of our enemies!

Psalm 23:5

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Psalm 119:147

(KJV) I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word.

(NIV) I rise before dawn and cry for help; I have put my hope in your word.

Beloved, I will not be the one to instruct you to rise early in the morning to meet with God. Indeed, for some people this is not possible, because of lifestyle or work schedule. However, there is something uniquely Biblical about giving God the first fruits of your waking hours — your thoughts, your hopes, or your fears concerning the day ahead.

For the psalmist, lifestyle options and work schedules matter not, only God-ordained survival! When your only option is prayer and the promises of God for timely deliverance from evil, your eyelids may not see much closure in the night watches, as your pleas to the Lord for merciful rescue continue into the pre-dawn.

It is worth noting here that the psalmist prays, or *cries*, God's promises in His Word. Dear believer, we will never do better in prayer than praying unchanging Scripture back to God. Hide it in your heart today!

Psalm 119:16 *I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.*

Psalm 119:148

(KJV) Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word.

(NIV) My eyes stay open through the watches of the night, that I may meditate on your promises.

As we observed in the previous verse, the psalmist is not experiencing circumstances that allow for undisturbed, restful sleep. Rather, in the face of oppression and evil, he has set his mind on things above, and that includes not only God, but God's Word:

Colossians 3:1-2

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Psalm 119:89 *LAMED. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.*

To engage our minds and hearts by faith, and focus upward on the reality of our identity in Christ, is to see with clear spiritual eyes our present and ultimate victory in Christ!

Psalm 119:149

(KJV) Hear my voice according unto thy lovingkindness: O LORD, quicken me according to thy judgment.

(NIV) Hear my voice in accordance with your love; preserve my life, LORD, according to your laws.

Oh, beloved, to *know* God is to *love* God. If you and I do not believe that we are loved and valued by God, whom do we call out to in times of trouble?

Psalm 50:15

And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

Hear my voice. The psalmist knows that God hears him. He knows that he knows that he knows. How? Because God answers his prayers!

James 5:16

Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

I recently watched a video containing graphic footage of a person trapped in their parked vehicle in the path of a violent tornado — no where to turn and no time to turn back. This person uttered some expletives only to begin calling out to God very specifically and asking Him to spare their life. He did. The tornado destroyed everything in its path, except the terrified person's vehicle, which was only blown over on its side.

I wondered aloud if this individual's fervent prayer was from a place of desperation or devotion.

*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: How different would your prayers sound —from your prayer closet compared to a place of turbulent circumstances?

*STUDY POINT: Find two passages of prayer in the New Testament that you would consider *effectual* and *fervent*. What primary characteristics do both these prayers have?

Psalm 119:150

(KJV) They draw nigh that follow after mischief: they are far from thy law.

(NIV) Those who devise wicked schemes are near, but they are far from your law.

Here is an interesting play on words — the wicked are *near* but they are *far* from God's Word! We might assume that a person who did not know God would have no interest in God's Word. However, that is hardly the point our psalmist is making here. He is conversing with God! That's it! His enemies are all around — and such may be the case for each true Christian — but they are not equipped with such as the most powerful weapon, God's Sword, God's Word!

Hebrews 4:12-13

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

With whom we have to do. Yes, every single person will have to give an account to God as to what they did in their lifetime with God's Son and the Word that testifies to His holiness. All claims of self-righteous works will be unaccepted by God and responded with due penalty: eternity apart from God in hell.

Revelations 20:11-15

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Who in your sphere of influence is "far from [God's] law?" (Psalm 119:150). How might you approach — or pray for — this person, that they might be saved through Jesus today?

*STUDY POINT: Find key verses from the New Testament that carry the Gospel message. If you haven't already committed them to memory, consider doing so — for the glory of God!

Psalms 119:151

*(KJV) Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth.
(NIV) Yet you are near, LORD, and all your commands are true.*

Remember this beloved: If your accusers and mockers — indeed, your *enemies* — seem very near to you, your God and His Word are *inside you!* The Holy Ghost is near:

John 14:26

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Oh, to have the truth of God's Word in your heart and on your tongue day and night! Be assured that trouble and troublemakers have no access to God's supernatural power in You.

Don't forget it!

Psalm 119:152

(KJV) Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.

(NIV) Long ago I learned from your statutes that you established them to last forever.

The Bible is an old book, yet it is as fresh today as when it was originally minted through diverse human authors. The psalmist knew the words of God — inspired by the Holy Ghost — would never fade away like the worldly written works of men. This knowledge should bring joy to your heart as you read, study, meditate upon, and obey God's unchanging Word!

Matthew 24:35 *Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.*

~ Reverend Darren McClelland