

# Growing Your Relationship with God – Psalm 119:41-64

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The next twenty-four verses of Psalm 119 reveal the purpose of Bible study is **not** to fill our heads with facts. Instead, the ultimate purpose of Scripture is to change our lives through faithful obedience to what we learn. Our relationship with God grows as we learn His Word and obey it in faith. The rhythm of the Christian life is: **hear** God’s Word, **be stirred** by His Spirit, **obey** in faith, and **experience** God’s presence.

We cannot have a meaningful, growing relationship with our Creator if we do not delight in His Word. Let’s see the actions required of us to have a growing relationship with God through His Word. First...

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## God’s love (119:41-48)

Verse 41 begins: *Let your steadfast love come to me, O Lord, your salvation according to your promise.* This is the first time God’s love is mentioned in this chapter. It is connected to two things—God’s promises and God’s salvation. God’s love for us is not discerned with shifting emotions. We know He loves us by hearing His words and seeing His actions. According to Romans 5:8b-c, how does God prove His love for us?

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As we grow in our knowledge and obedience, God’s loving promises become “living and active.” As a result, we have what is mentioned in verse 42: *an answer for him who taunts me.* God does not call us to be **philosophers** about His truth in a lost world. He commands us to be **witnesses** of what we know and experience in our relationship with Him.

In 1 Peter 3:15b, Peter instructs us to always be *prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.* However, what do we read in the rest of the verse?

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In verse 45, the psalmist describes the result of being God’s faithful witness: *I shall walk in a wide place.* The word translated *wide place* is (raw’hawb). In Genesis 26, Issac uses this same word (*Rehoboth*) as a name for a water well (26:22a-b). How does Issac describe this “wide place” to which God has led them (26:22c-d)?

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Just like Isaac and the psalmist, we live in a world filled with strife and sin. In the midst of this, God makes a place for us to be fruitful. And from that *wide place*, we can appreciate what the psalmist writes in verse 48: *I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love.*

To grow your relationship with God through His Word, **contemplate God’s love**, and...

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## God’s comfort (119:49-56)

This stanza celebrates the comfort of knowing God’s Word. It begins: *Remember your word to your servant, in which you have made me hope* (vs. 49). A relationship with our Creator through the Bible brings us hope in any circumstance. When the waves of life’s difficult storms toss us to and fro, we can cling to the eternal stability of God’s promises.

There is a Bible promise for every problem we encounter. One is Isaiah 26:3. Personalize this promise by writing your first name in each of the blanks and reading it aloud.

You keep \_\_\_\_\_ in perfect peace as \_\_\_\_\_’s  
mind is stayed on you, because \_\_\_\_\_ trusts in you.



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A seemingly hopeless situation afflicted this psalmist. Yet, meditating on God's promises brings him *hope* (vs.49), *comfort* (vv. 50 and 52), *life* (v. 50), *songs* (vs. 54), and *blessing* (v. 56). What a wonderful resource God has given us for times of trouble!

This section concludes with a revealing statement in verse 56: *This blessing has fallen to me, that I have kept your precepts.* As we experience God's steadfast love for us, we begin to see the promises themselves as our greatest treasure. We will be like the wise man Jesus talks about in Matthew 7:24-25. Jesus says everyone who hears and obeys His Word will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The winds and floods beat on the house. However, what happens, according to Matthew 7:25c?

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We often first come to Jesus for what we can get from Him—harmony in the home, salvation from sin, entry into eternity, strength for success, etc. Then, at some point, God takes us through a lonely, desperate wilderness. In that place, many shallow Christians will walk away from Him. That happens in John 6:66. Then, Jesus asks the twelve disciples: *Do you want to go away as well?* (6:67). What is Simon Peter's answer (6:68)?

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The greatest sources of comfort we have are God's eternal promises and the presence of His Spirit. No earthly thing can compare.

# Wednesday Night Bible Study

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