

Great Commission



Baptist Church

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher

SANCTIFIED AND Single

A Love Affair with the Word of God

Singles' Life Group Curriculum

January 5, 2020 - March 29, 2020

Introduction

Welcome to the Great Commission Baptist Church Singles' Life Group Class. The LORD has placed on the heart of our beloved Pastor Dr. Douglas E. Brown to start a Singles' Life Group class for 2020. Often, single ministries have an age restriction and cater to a younger group. This leaves out others who are single and desire to participate in the ministry. The biblical definition of a single person is a person who is not biblically married. This includes someone who has never married, or is divorced, or who have outlived their spouse is biblically qualified as being single. Being sanctified and single can present many challenges at home, the workplace, social life, and at your local church. The sanctified and single status can sometimes have a negative connotation or social status within our local churches. This negative connotation basis in not in scripture but derives from the judgmental people who are unlearned about the blessings in being sanctified and single.

This study will help the believer to learn more about the True and Living God. Psalm 119 is the longest psalm in the Psalter and is divided into 22 sections each beginning with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Each lesson will utilize the READ format. The acronym READ stands for: (1) **R**eflecting on the topic, (2) **E**ngaging and talking, (3) **A**nalyze the text, and (4) **D**iscipline to the word. In other words, we have to diligently practice the truth. This study is divided into two books. These four components will be use by the teachers and students each week to dig into the topic and lesson and learn thus said the LORD. Let's engage in prayer and prepare ourselves as sanctified singles to have a love affair with his word.

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher
Great Commission Baptist Church
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Lessons by Reverend Joseph Ellzey Jr.

Lesson Topics & Dates

<u>Topics</u>	<u>Lessons</u>	<u>Dates</u>
My Steps are ordered by the LORD!	Psalms 119:1-8	January 5, 2020
A House built on the word of the LORD!	Psalms 119:9-16	January 12, 2020
Dancing with the LORD!	Psalms 119:17-24	January 19, 2020
Clinging to the testimonies of the LORD!	Psalms 119:25-32	January 26, 2020
Forsaking the other side for the LORD!	Psalms 119:33-40	February 2, 2020
Leaning on the LORD!	Psalms 119:41-48	February 9, 2020
Troubled but comforted by the LORD!	Psalms 119:49-56	February 16, 2020
Increase my territory, O'LORD!	Psalms 119:57-64	February 23, 2020
Spanking from the LORD!	Psalms 119:65-72	March 1, 2020
Believer chastened by the LORD!	Psalms 119:73-80	March 8, 2020
No word from the LORD!	Psalms 119:81-88	March 15, 2020
My word is bond said the LORD!	Psalms 119:89-96	March 22, 2020
Refresh Me, O' LORD!	Psalms 119:97-104	March 29, 2020



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Table of Contents

Introduction.....	i
Lesson Topics & Dates	ii
Table of Contents	iii
My Steps are Ordered by the LORD!	4
A House Built on the Word of the LORD!	6
Dancing with the LORD!.....	8
Clinging to the Testimonies of the LORD!.....	10
Forsaking the Other Side for the LORD!.....	12
Leaning on the LORD!	14
Troubled but Comforted by the LORD!	16
Increase My Territory, O ‘LORD!	18
Spanking from the LORD!.....	20
Believer Chastened by the LORD!	22
No Word from the LORD!.....	24
My Word is Bond saith the LORD!.....	26
Refresh Me, O’ LORD!	28
Epilogue	30
Bibliography	31



Lessons by Reverend Joseph Ellzey Jr.

My Steps are Ordered by the LORD!

Lesson II – January 12, 2020

Psalm 119:1-8

This first section begins with the Hebrew letter *Aleph*. The modern name for this letter is aleph and corresponds to the Greek name alpha and the Arabic name aleph. The various meanings of this root are oxen, yoke and learn.¹ The writer is not identified, and a melody has not been assigned to this psalm. The word *blessed* is translated from the Hebrew word *esher* which means *blessed, happiness, or prosperity* in this context.² A believer will be blessed and will experience the prosperity of the LORD by walking in His laws. This is an essential truth for all believers in every age. King Solomon sums it up by writing, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. (Eccl. 12:13).”³ Believers must fear God and commit to walking according to God’s word.

Secondly, the psalmist writes in verse 2, “Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.” The person is blessed who guard the laws of the LORD and seek Him with their whole heart. The person does not engage in violent deeds of injustices but has decided to live righteously. The imagery presented in the verse is a person living for the LORD. This is not a picture of a perfect person who never sins. The picture presented here is a person walking in the steps of the LORD. When a person chooses to obey God, their actions are blameless. Believers were given a charge from the LORD to keep His precepts. His precepts are plural and include all His righteous commandments. The LORD has directed the way of His child to preserve His statutes. The word statute includes every allotment, decree, condition, and portion that the LORD has commanded or revealed. This realization caused the psalmist to not be ashamed to look into all of scripture. He praised the LORD with an uprightness of heart. The psalmist rejoices in the LORD by giving thanks every time He exercises His righteous judgments. He concludes by declaring to the LORD that he will keep His statutes. He pleads to LORD not to remove His hand from him. The LORD has blessed us and has ordered our steps!

¹ The Ancient Hebrew Alphabet. <https://www.ancient-hebrew.org/ancient-alphabet/aleph.htm>. Hebrew letter *aleph* (accessed November 20, 2019).

² Thayer’s Greek Lexicon. <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/835.htm> Hebrew word *esher* (accessed November 20, 2019).

³ All English Scripture quotations, besides those translated by this writer, and unless otherwise noted are from the *Kings James Bible*: 1998 (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 1998). Hereafter referred to as the KJV. All Hebrew Scripture quotations are from the K.Elliger and W.Rudolph et al., *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*, rev.ed., (Federal Republic of Germany: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1997). All Greek Scripture quotations are from the Barbara Aland, Kurt Aland, Matthew Black et al., *The Greek New Testament*, 4th ed., 50 (Federal Republic of Germany: United Bible Societies, 1993).



Lessons by Reverend Joseph Ellzey Jr.

Reflecting on the word – Can you relate to the topic of this lesson?

Engaging the word – What are your thoughts as you read through the passage of scripture?

Analyzing the word – How has the LORD reveal Himself in this lesson?

Discipline to the word – How do you plan to incorporate the biblical principles from this lesson?



Lessons by Reverend Joseph Ellzey Jr.

A House Built on the Word of the LORD!

Lesson II – January 12, 2020

Psalm 119:9-15

This section begins with the Hebrew letter *Beth*. It is the second letter of the Hebrew alphabet and is the English transliteration meaning house, tent, and place.⁴ This is why the writer titled this lesson, “A House Built on the Word of the Lord.” The psalmist writes in verse 9, “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.” The biblical principle presented in this verse gives us evidence that our ways are not the LORD’s ways (Isa. 55:8-9). In order for our steps to be pure before the LORD we have to follow His instruction. Once you have been made righteous, you are required to govern yourself by the standards (precepts & laws) of the Almighty God. The psalmist requested that the LORD not let him to go astray from His commandments. The LORD can accomplish this through any means because He is sovereign.

The psalmist has hidden in his heart the word of God with the hope that he will not sin against Him. The psalmist writes in 12, “Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.” The word blessed is translated from the Hebrew word *barak* which means to bless, kneel in this context.⁵ Simply stated, the psalmist begins to worship the LORD with a posture of kneeling and blessing God with his mouth. As he was blessing the LORD he petitioned the Almighty to teach him. The writer used an imperative with suggests a strong volitional request. The psalmist desires to build his house on the word of God. He declares all the judgments that proceeded out of the mouth of the LORD. He rejoices in the admonitions of the LORD and to meditate on the precepts of the LORD. This has caused the psalmist to contemplate in the LORD’s ways. The psalmist reminds us to always consider the LORD’s ways. He has decided to delight himself in the LORD’s statutes and to not forget them.

⁴ Bible Study Tools. <https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/beth/>. Hebrew letter *beth* (accessed November 20, 2019).

⁵ Gary Pratico and Miles Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar*. 2nd ed.(Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007),449.



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Reflecting on the word – Can you relate to the topic of this lesson?

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Lessons by Reverend Joseph Ellzey Jr.

Dancing with the LORD!
Lesson III – January 19, 2020

Psalm 119:17-24

This section begins with the Hebrew letter *Gimbel* which symbolizes a rich man running after a poor man, the *Daleth*, to give him charity. The word *Gimbel* is derived from the word *gemul*, which in Hebrew means both *the giving of reward* as well as the *giving of punishment*.⁶ The psalmist petitions the LORD three times in this psalm. In his first petition he pleads for the LORD's blessings. He writes in verse 17, "Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word." The first petition asks the LORD to reward the psalmist for keeping the LORD's law. The psalmist has decided not to live for himself but to live for the Almighty God. He does this by keeping the word of the LORD.

In his second petition the psalmist pleads for the LORD's help. He writes in verse 18, "Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law." The psalmist cried to the LORD to remove the veil from his eyes so that he may see the wondrous things from His law. Sin will cause us not to see clearly and causes us to grope around like the blind (Zeph. 1:17). The psalmist compared himself to a sojourner in the earth and asked the LORD to not deal with him as a stranger. His soul longs for the LORD's judgments at all times. It is the LORD who rebukes the proud and curses those who stray from His commandments. The curses presented in verse 21 are for those who disobey the LORD (Prov. 3:12; Heb. 12:6). The believer who disobeys the LORD experiences divine consequences.

In his third petition the psalmist pleads for the LORD's mercy. He writes in verse 22, "Remove from me reproach and contempt; for I have kept thy testimonies." The psalmist realized that he is a sinner and plead to God for mercy. He asked the LORD to roll away the shame, pride and wickedness from him because he is now doing the will of God. The princes sit and speak against the psalmist, but he has decided to meditate on the LORD's statutes. The psalmist concludes this section by declaring that the LORD's testimonies and counselors are his delight. The psalmist delights in dancing with the LORD.

⁶ The Letter Gimel. https://www.chabad.org/kabbalah/article_cdo/aid/380533/jewish/The-Letter-Gimel.htm. Hebrew letter *gimbel* (accessed November 20, 2019).



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Reflecting on the word – Can you relate to the topic of this lesson?

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Lessons by Reverend Joseph Ellzey Jr.

Clinging to the Testimonies of the LORD!

Lesson IV – January 26, 2020

Psalm 119:25-32

This section begins with the Hebrew letter *Daleth*. It is the fourth letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The *Daleth* is associated with the word *dal*, meaning *weak* or *needy*. In a more spiritual sense, this represents lowliness and perhaps a sense of humility, as well.⁷ The psalmist requested of the LORD six times in this section for Him to intervene.

The psalmist writes in verse 25, “My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word.” There are times in your life that you may feel weak or lowly in spirit. Just as the psalmist petitioned the LORD we must do the same. The word quicken in the King James Bible was translated from the Hebrew word *chayah* which means *keep live, make alive, certainly, give promise life, let, suffer to live, nourish up*.⁸ The verbal action of the word is intensified and the imperative mood is used which expresses direct commands, demanding immediate action from the one being addressed.⁹ Simply stated, he is employing strong language with the intent to invoke God to do something. In verse 25 the psalmist is requesting the LORD to bring him back to life with His word. He is speaking figuratively to the LORD to revive his life.

In verse 26, the psalmist is making a strong request to the LORD to instruct him and cause him to understand His ways. The reason for the request is so that he will meditate on the wonder works of the LORD. In verse 28, the psalmist made a strong request that the LORD will strengthen him. The burdens in life have gotten so heavy in him that he needed divine assistance to arise from out of his lowly state. In verse 29, the psalmist requested the LORD to remove any deception or falsehood from him. Only the LORD can do this! Finally in the latter part of verse 29, he asked the LORD to grant him the law graciously. The psalmist has chosen the way of truth and has laid His judgments before him. He has committed himself to the testimonies of the LORD and holds them close to his heart. He will run like a courier in the way of the LORD’s commandments when the He has enlarge his heart.

⁷ Hebrew Today. <https://hebrewtoday.com/alphabet/the-letter-dalet-%D7%93/>. Hebrew letter *daleth* (accessed November 20, 2019).

⁸ Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance. <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/2421.htm>. Hebrew word *chayah* (accessed November 20, 2019).

⁹ Gary Pratico and Miles Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar*. 2nd ed.(Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007),209, 309.



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Reflecting on the word – Can you relate to the topic of this lesson?

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Forsaking the Other Side for the LORD!

Lesson V – February 2, 2020

Psalm 119:33-40

This section begins with the Hebrew letter *He*. It is the fifth letter of the alphabet which means behold, breath, or sigh, as one does when looking at a great sight.¹⁰ The title of this lesson captures this meaning. When you consider the grandeur of the LORD our response should be to obey and worship Him. The psalmist used nine imperatives in this section. The imperative mood is used which expresses direct commands, demanding immediate action from the one being addressed. Simply stated, he is employing strong language with the intent to invoke God to do something. All of the imperatives are actions performed by the LORD. Seven of the nine imperatives used a *Hiphil* stem which is used to express a causative type of action with an active voice.¹¹ The subject for all eight verses is the LORD which is found in verse 33. The LORD is working within us! The LORD accomplished this task by: (1) teaching us, (2) giving us understanding, (3) making us walk in His path, (4) inclining our hearts, (5) turning away our eyes from worthless things, (6) making us lively in His way, (7) by establishing His word in us, (8) turning away the reproach, and (9) by making us alive in His righteousness. These nine divine actions by the LORD keep us from falling away, and wondering away onto a fruitless journey. We have to simply trust God and be faithful to His word.

There are six words in this section that reference the word of God. The terms statues, law, commandments, testimonies, precepts, and your way refer to some aspect of scripture. Pastor D.A. Carson stated, “The collection of these terms in Psalm 119 presents to us all of God’s word.”¹² The psalmist writes in verse 38, “Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.” He realized through the word of God that the LORD is mighty. King Solomon writes, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.” The psalmist fear of the LORD has empowered him to forsake the other side!

¹⁰ The Ancient Hebrew Research Center. <https://www.ancient-hebrew.org/ancient-alphabet/hey.htm>. Hebrew letter *He* (accessed November 20, 2019).

¹¹ Gary Pratico and Miles Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar*. 2nd ed.(Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007),209, 345.

¹²D.A. Carson. *Lecture Zenos Summer Institute - July 5-7, 2017*. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kd4bBDKVwpo> (accessed November 20, 2019).



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Reflecting on the word – Can you relate to the topic of this lesson?

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Leaning on the LORD!
Lesson VI – February 9, 2020

Psalm 119:41:48

This section begins with the Hebrew letter *Vau*. It is the sixth letter of the Hebrew alphabet the name possibly means *nail* or *hook*, and the shape of the letter in the Phoenician alphabet bears some resemblance to a hook.¹³ The title of this lesson, “Leaning on the LORD,” captures the possible meaning of the Hebrew letter *Vau*. The psalmist writes in verse 41, “Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, even thy salvation, according to thy word.” The point that the psalmist is making is that salvation belong to the LORD (Jonah 2:9; Isa. 43:11; 45:21; Hosea 13:4, Jer. 3:23; Ps. 62:7). The salvation mentioned in these verses covers both present and future deliverances. The present references all the imminent dangers and the future references our eternal state.

The psalmist vowed to trust in His word, and asked the LORD not to take the word from His mouth. He hopes in the LORD’s judgments. The psalmist realized that it does not matter what people say when they are living in the will of God. The psalmist writes in verse 44, “So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever.” Since he has decided to continually keep the law of God he is blessed in two ways. The two ways are found in verses 45 and verse 47. The words walk and delight use the *Hithpael* stem which generally expresses the reflexive voice.¹⁴ This simply means that the subject is doing the action and receiving the benefits. The first way the psalmist walks in liberty in the way of the LORD and enjoys the freedom, He uses his freedom to speak about the testimonies of God before the kings. The LORD has removed the shame. Secondly, the psalmist has delighted himself in the LORD’s commandments. As the psalmist delights in the commandments he is held up by the LORD.

¹³ Jewishencyclopedia.<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/14651-vav>. Hebrew letter *vav* (accessed November 20, 2019).

¹⁴ Gary Pratico and Miles Van Pelt. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar*. 2nd ed.(Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007), 385.



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Reflecting on the word – Can you relate to the topic of this lesson?

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Troubled but Comforted by the LORD!
Lesson VII – February 16, 2020

Psalm 119:49-56

This section begins with the Hebrew letter *Zayin*. It is the seventh letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The root meaning of the Hebrew letter *Zayin* is interesting in itself. While it means a sword or sharp weapon, the meaning of the word is also connected to food and sustenance.¹⁵ The writer will focus on the latter meaning and is convinced that in the time of trouble the LORD will nourish us. The psalmist writes in verse 49, “Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope.” The King James Bible translated the English word *remember* from the Hebrew word *zakar* which expresses the idea that the LORD will remember His covenant with His people. The psalmist petitioned God with a strong plea (imperative) to honor the promise He made with His people (Gen.12; 17). He has placed his hope in the LORD even at a time of distress. This is his comfort in the time of afflictions, and has given him life.

The psalmist has identified himself as a servant who is in bondage to the LORD. Arrogant men have scorned him but he does not waver or bend from the law of the LORD. He writes in verse 52, “I remembered thy judgments of old, O LORD; and have comforted myself.” The servant has caused himself to reflect in how the LORD has judged the wicked and is comforted. He is indignant because the wicked because the wicked has forsaken the law of God. The emotional state of the psalmist included pain, hurt, distress, dissatisfied, irritation, and offended. As a result, he placed the statutes of God in his heart and begin to sing them wherever he sojourns. Whether day or night the psalmist has remembered the LORD’s name and has vowed to keep His law. He closes this section by writing in verse 56, “This I had, because I kept thy precepts.” The psalmist believes he will receive the promises of God because he has not forsaken the LORD’s appointed ways. In times of trouble we can find comfort in the word of God.

¹⁵ Hebrew Today. <https://hebrewtoday.com/alphabet/the-letter-zine-%D7%96/>. Hebrew letter *zayin* (accessed November 22, 2019).



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Reflecting on the word – Can you relate to the topic of this lesson?

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Increase My Territory, O 'LORD!
Lesson VIII – February 23, 2020

Psalm 119:57-64

This section begins with the Hebrew letter *Heth*. It is the eighth letter in the Hebrew alphabet which is often associated with super-spirituality or holiness, as it is one more than seven, which represents the holy realm of the Sabbath.¹⁶ The psalmist writes, “Thou art my portion, O LORD: I have said that I would keep thy words.” He realizes that all his blessings come from the LORD. The King James Bible translated the English word pattern portion from the Hebrew word *Cheleq*. In this context, *cheleq* means the possession of his servants in a spiritual sense.¹⁷ The psalmist understood that the favor of the LORD resulted in not just physical blessing but also spiritual blessings. He cried out to the LORD to be merciful to him according to His word.

The psalmist realized that he has missed the mark on many occasions and deserved punishment. The LORD has made an unconditional promise to Abraham, his ancestor, but he has missed the mark on many occasion and deserved punishment. But since the promise of blessings was unconditional he pleads for the LORD’s mercy. The prophet Jeremiah writes, “It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.” (Lam. 3:22-23). The psalmist considered his ways and it caused him to turn his feet to the testimonies of God. The imagery presented is a picture of true biblical repentance. He did not waste any time to turn back to God. The LORD was merciful and gracious and will receive back a wayward child. The chords of wicked men have surrounded him and bound him but he has not forgotten the law of God. This caused the psalmist to worship the LORD in the wee hours of the night. Finally, the psalmist petitioned the LORD to teach him. The LORD’s righteous judgments, the psalmist fear of God, and the merciful acts of the LORD. Increase my territory, O’ LORD.

¹⁶ The Ancient Hebrew Alphabet. <https://www.ancient-hebrew.org/ancient-alphabet/yud.htm> The Hebrew letter *heth* (November 22, 2019).

¹⁷ Brown-Driver-Briggs. <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/2506.htm>. Hebrew word *cheleq* (accessed November 22, 2019).



Lessons by Reverend Joseph Ellzey Jr.

Reflecting on the word – Can you relate to the topic of this lesson?

Engaging the word – What are your thoughts as you read through the passage of scripture?

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Lessons by Reverend Joseph Ellzey Jr.

Spanking from the LORD!
Lesson IX – March 1, 2020

Psalm 119:65-72

This section begins with the Hebrew letter *Teth*. It is the ninth letter of the Hebrew alphabet and represents the two possibilities of man. The letter can picture either the man that is in rebellion before the LORD or the man that surrendered to Him.¹⁸ Both of the definitions seem to be true in this section. Skipping to verse 71 the psalmist writes, “It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.” The King James Bible translated the English word *afflicted* from the Hebrew word *anah* which means to be afflicted by the discipline of God.¹⁹ The psalmist used a *Pual* stem for the Hebrew word *anah* which expresses the passive voice. Recall that the passive voice describes the subject of the verse being acted upon. The psalmist is the subject of this verse. He is being acted upon by the LORD. The affliction he is experiencing is caused by the LORD. Simply stated, he is being discipline by the Almighty God.

As a result, the psalmist concluded that the affliction by the hand of the LORD was beneficial because it caused him to learn the LORD’s statutes. The psalmist does not describe the type of affliction but whatever it was, it caused him to bow and submit to the LORD. How did he learn? And why did he learn? The psalmist answered these questions in verses 66 and 68. The King James Bible translated the English word *teach* in both verses from the Hebrew word *lamed* which means to instruct, to exercise in.²⁰ The psalmist petitioned the LORD to teach him good judgment and knowledge, and your statutes. Prior to these requests, he confessed that he went astray and the proud have plastered falsehood over me, and made his real character unrecognizable. He has learned from his affliction and has concluded that the law of the mouth of God is better that thousands as of coins of gold and silver. We ought to be thankful for the spanking from the LORD.

¹⁸ Hebrew for Christians. https://www.hebrew4christians.com/Grammar/Unit_One/Aleph-Bet/Tet/tet.html. Hebrew letter *teth* (accessed November 22, 2019).

¹⁹Brown-Driver-Briggs. <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/6031.htm>. Hebrew word *anah* (accessed November 22, 2019).

²⁰ Brown-Driver-Briggs. <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/6031.htm>. Hebrew word *lamad* (accessed November 22, 2019).



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Reflecting on the word – Can you relate to the topic of this lesson?

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Believer Chastened by the LORD!

Lesson X – March 8, 2020

Psalm 119:73-80

This section begins with the Hebrew letter *Yod*. It is the tenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The meaning of this letter is work, make and throw; the functions of the hand.²¹ In this lesson we will see the hand of the LORD working in the life of the believer. The psalmist writes in verse 73, “Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.” He acknowledged his Creator and personal relationship with Him. His creator has made him and fashioned him in His image. This creative work includes both physical and spiritual. The LORD made man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (Gen. 2:7).

The psalmist petitioned the LORD to give him understanding so that he may learn His commandments. The emphasis is not on lip service but to put into practice the things you learned (Isa. 29:13). He learns from being chastened by the LORD and declared that His judgments are right. It is because of the LORD’s faithfulness the psalmist was afflicted. The psalmist writes in verse 76, “Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant.” The King James Bible translated the English phrase *thy merciful kindness* from the Hebrew word *cheched* which specially means loving kindness: in quickening of the spiritual life.²² The psalmist began to meditate on the things that God has appointed. He closes this section with asking the LORD to connect him with others who fear Him. Those who fear the LORD have knowledge and understanding about His ways (Prov. 9:10). The psalmist plead to God that his heart will be upright and that he will not be covered with shame.

²¹ Ancient Hebrew Alphabet. <https://www.ancient-hebrew.org/ancient-alphabet/yud.htm>. Hebrew letter *yod* (accessed November 22, 2019).

²² Brown-Driver-Briggs. <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/2617.htm>. Hebrew word *cheched* (accessed November 22, 2019).



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Reflecting on the word – Can you relate to the topic of this lesson?

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Lessons by Reverend Joseph Ellzey Jr.

No Word from the LORD!
Lesson XI – March 15, 2020

Psalm 119:81-88

This section begins with the Hebrew letter *Kaph*. This is the eleventh letter of the Hebrew alphabet meaning palm of a hand and also what might be contained within the palm of the hand.²³ The psalmist writes, “My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word.” The King James Bible translated the English word *faineth* from the Hebrew word *kalah* which means to be completed, at the end, finished, accomplished or spent.²⁴ In this context the psalmist is spiritually exhausted. He is in great anticipation to be delivered by the LORD. The deliverance that the psalmist is anticipating is both spiritual and physical. He asked the LORD in verse 82, “When wilt thou comfort me?” He mentioned that his soul fainted and he desired comfort from the LORD. He compared himself to wineskin in smoke but stated that he will not forget the LORD’s statutes. A German Protestant named Rosenmuller writes, “It was a custom to the ancients to hand skins of wine in the smoke of a fire, for very much the same reason that we stand a bottle of claret on the hearth, in order to mellow the wine by a gradual and moderate warmth, and to bring it to an earlier perfection.”²⁵ The psalmist is suffering and he has not heard from the LORD. He has to patiently wait on the LORD.

The psalmist posed two more questions to the Almighty God. He writes in verse 84, “How many are the days of thy servant? when wilt thou execute judgment on them that persecute me?” The affliction appears to be so bad that the psalmist feels as if he is dying. He wants to know when the LORD is going to intervene by judging his persecutors. He petitioned the LORD for help and to revive him in verses 86 and 88. The Hebrew verbs for those words are in the imperative mood which expresses strong volitional requests. He asked the LORD to help him in his time of trouble and to grant him favor by sparing his life. His enemies almost killed him. They dug pits for him which suggests multiple murder attempts. He was being treated unjustly but he continued to hold on to the uncompromising word of God. Even with no word from the LORD he decided to keep His testimony.

²³ Hebrew for Christians. https://www.hebrew4christians.com/Grammar/Unit_One/Aleph-Bet/Kaf/kaf.html. Hebrew word *kaph* (accessed November 22, 2019).

²⁴ Strong’s Concordance. <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/3615.htm>. Hebrew word *kaph* (accessed November 22, 2019).

²⁵ Bible Hub. *The Wine-Skin in the Smoke*. https://biblehub.com/sermons/auth/tuck/the_wine-skin_in_the_smoke.htm. Wine-Skin Meaning (accessed November 22, 2019).



Lessons by Reverend Joseph Ellzey Jr.

Reflecting on the word – Can you relate to the topic of this lesson?

Engaging the word – What are your thoughts as you read through the passage of scripture?

Analyzing the word – How has the LORD reveal Himself in this lesson?

Discipline to the word – How do you plan to incorporate the biblical principles from this lesson?



Lessons by Reverend Joseph Ellzey Jr.

My Word is Bond saith the LORD!

Lesson XII – March 22, 2020

Psalm 119:89-96

This section begins with the Hebrew letter *lamed*. It is the twelfth letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The original meaning of *lamed* probably was “to prick, sting, incite, goad,” as a shepherd might prod cattle to perform some action.²⁶ The psalmist writes in verse 89, “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.” The King James Bible translated the English word *settled* from the Hebrew verb *natsab* which means *stand firm, established, and fixed*.²⁷ Simply stated, the LORD has established his word in the heaven. The word heaven has a dual meaning in the original Hebrew. The heavens speak of the sky and the universe. The omnipotence and sovereignty of the LORD is expressed in this verse. The psalmist writes in verse 90 – 91, “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.” He makes a mental note that all that all of the LORD’s creation serves Him.

The LORD is sovereign over all of His creation. Without His law the psalmist would have perished in his affliction. The LORD had promised mercies and blessings when one follows His precepts and commandments (Deut. 28: 1-14). The prophet Jeremiah writes, “It is of the LORD’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.” (Lam. 3:22-23). The psalmist rejoices because he has received life through the word of God. He vows never to forget it, and pleads to LORD to save him. He has so much confidence in the LORD that he believes that the LORD will deliver him from his enemies. The war between man and the adversary is both spiritual and physical. The psalmist received knowledge and wisdom from the LORD to fight against his adversaries. The LORD will fight our battles and make our enemies our footstool (Deut. 32:35; Psa. 110:1). There plan to destroy God’s child will not succeed due to the testimonies of the LORD. The psalmist concludes in verse 96, “I have seen an end of all perfection: but thy commandment is exceeding broad.” The King James Bible translated the English word perfection from the Hebrew word *tiklah* which means *completion or perfection*.²⁸ This is the only place it is used in the Old Testament. The psalmist has completeness in his understanding about the LORD’s everlasting love and mercy. The LORD’s word is bond!

²⁶ Hebrew for Christians. https://www.hebrew4christians.com/Grammar/Unit_One/Aleph-Bet/Lamed/lamed.html. Hebrew letter *lamed* (accessed November 23, 2019).

²⁷ Brown-Driver-Briggs. <https://biblehub.com/text/psalms/119-89.htm> Hebrew word *natsab* (accessed December 6, 2019).

²⁸ Strong Concordance. <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/8502.htm>. Hebrew word *tiklah* (accessed December 6, 2019).



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Reflecting on the word – Can you relate to the topic of this lesson?

Engaging the word – What are your thoughts as you read through the passage of scripture?

Analyzing the word – How has the LORD reveal Himself in this lesson?

Discipline to the word – How do you plan to incorporate the biblical principles from this lesson?



Lessons by Reverend Joseph Ellzey Jr.

Refresh Me, O' LORD!
Lesson XIII – March 29, 2020

Psalm 119:97-104

This section begins with the Hebrew letter *Mem*. It is the thirteen letter of the Hebrew alphabet which traditionally means waters, people, nations, languages, and tongues. The name of the letter probably signifies water itself and its most ancient form bore a resemblance to waves of water.²⁹ The psalmist writes in verse 97, “O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.” The English words “O how love I” are connected by a *maqfef* in the Hebrew text. The *maqfef* means “hinder,” and functions much like a hyphen in English. That is two words of a pair are joined together to form a new word.³⁰ The psalmist expresses his love for the law of God. The law of God (torah) is found in the first five books of the bible and places emphasis on his feelings towards the law of God. He writes in verse 99, “I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.” The psalmist boasts about being wiser than his enemies. The wisdom of God has been imparted to man through His commandments.

The LORD has given him more understanding than all the teachers because he is constantly meditating on the testimonies of God. The King James Bible translated the English word *understand* from the Hebrew verb *bin* which means to *discern*, and to *get understanding*. The verb is in the *Hiphil* stem which generally expresses a causative type of action with an active voice.³¹ As the LORD blesses the psalmist with understanding of His word the psalmist puts everything that he has learned into practice. The psalmist writes in verse 100, “I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.” The King James Bible translated the English words *understand more* from the Hebrew verb *sakal* which means to have insight, comprehension, and to be prudent.³² The verb is in the *Hithpael* stem which generally expresses the reflexive voice, Recall that the reflexive voice expresses action performed by the subject for their own benefit and can express repeated action.³³ Simply stated that psalmist is a hearer and doer of God’s holy word. His ancestors knew the word of God but failed to practice it. The psalmist has restrained his feet from every evil way, so that he may keep the word of the LORD. He has not departed from the LORD’s judgments because he had been personally taught by Him. The LORD’s words are sweet to his taste, and sweeter than honey to his mouth! The psalmist acknowledges that it is through the LORD’s precepts that he got his understanding. It leads him to hate every false way. He is refreshed because of the LORD!

²⁹ Hebrew for Christians. https://www.hebrew4christians.com/Grammar/Unit_One/Aleph-Bet/Mem/mem.html. Hebrew letter *mem* (accessed November 22, 2019).

³⁰ Hebrew for Christians. https://www.hebrew4christians.com/Grammar/Unit_Three/The_Maqfef/the_maqfef.html. Hebrew word *maqfef* (accessed December 6, 2019).

³¹ Pratico, Gary and Van Pelt, Miles. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar*. 2nd ed.(Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007), 345.

³² Brown-Driver-Briggs. <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/7919.htm>. Hebrew word *sakal* (accessed December 6, 2019).

³³ Pratico, Gary and Van Pelt, Miles. *Basics of Biblical Hebrew: Grammar*. 2nd ed.(Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2007), 385.



Lessons by Reverend Joseph Ellzey Jr.

Reflecting on the word – Can you relate to the topic of this lesson?

Engaging the word – What are your thoughts as you read through the passage of scripture?

Analyzing the word – How has the LORD reveal Himself in this lesson?

Discipline to the word – How do you plan to incorporate the biblical principles from this lesson?



Lessons by Reverend Joseph Ellzey Jr.

Epilogue

This study has been divided into two books. This first book covered 13 lessons and the second book will cover the final 9 lessons for Psalm 119. Recall that Psalm 119 includes all 22 consonants of the Hebrew alphabet with 8 verses in each section. This fruitful study will encourage the believer to depend on the Almighty God and challenge them to have a love affair with his word. Let's prepare our hearts and mind for the second part of this study.

Dr. Douglas E. Brown, Pastor/Teacher



Lessons by Reverend Joseph Ellzey Jr.

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Lessons by Reverend Joseph Ellzey Jr.

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