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| <p>41) <u>May</u> Your lovingkindness
also <u>come to me</u>, O Lord,
Your salvation according
to Your word;</p> <p>42) <u>So I shall have an answer</u>
for him who reproaches
me, For I trust in Your word.</p> <p>43) And <u>do not</u> take the word of
truth utterly out of my mouth,
For I wait for Your ordinances.</p> <p>44) <u>So I will keep</u> Your law
continually, Forever and ever.</p> | <p>45) <u>And I will walk</u> at liberty, For
I seek Your precepts.</p> <p>46) <u>I will also speak</u> of Your
testimonies before kings,
And shall not be ashamed.</p> <p>47) <u>And I shall delight</u> in Your
commandments, Which I love.</p> <p>48) <u>And I shall lift up</u> my hands
to Your commandments,
Which I love; And I will
meditate on Your statutes.</p> |
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We come now to our sixth section of Psalm 119, which is the fifth letter of the Hebrew alphabet which is the letter “w,” many times pronounced in Hebrew with a “v” sound. Every word in this section begins with a word which begins with this letter “w.” The underlined words in your notes are actually the first word of the Hebrew text and each word begins with this letter.

The reason for this is because this Psalm is designed to exalt the Word of God. This is the purpose of it. There are twenty two letters in the Hebrew alphabet and there are twenty two sections, representing each letter to show the importance of the written Word of God.

Now in this section, it is clear that the writer needed God’s grace and mercy and deliverance. He was facing some type of adversity or affliction and when we find ourselves in that context we need to realize that **a critical key to our deliverance is found by carefully studying and meditating on God’s Word.**

Most people do not see the value of trusting in the written Word of God. But this Psalmist saw it. He had a conviction that the Word of God was capable of resolving everything in his life.

What we learn is that:

WHEN WE FIND OURSELVES IN ADVERSE SITUATIONS, WE NEED TO REMEMBER THAT GOD DELIVERS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH WHAT HE SAYS IN HIS INSPIRED WORD.

Now **verse 41** is important. **This writer realizes that he is in desperate need of the mercy of God that is revealed in the written Word of God.** The verb “may they come to me” is Jussive in form, expressing a great wish or desire. The great wish or desire of the writer is that God would grant him His lovingkindness/mercy and His salvation that He reveals in His Word. He wanted God to allow these things to specifically come to him.

Now we know that the writer is already a believer so the salvation for which he wishes is something other than salvation from hell.

The word “lovingkindness” is one in Hebrew that refers to the pity, the grace, the favor, and the mercy of God (William Gesenius, *Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 294).

The word “salvation” is a specific word that refers to God’s help and deliverance (*Ibid.*, p. 876).

Mr. Spurgeon said, “Salvation is an aggregate of mercies incalculable in number, priceless in value, incessant in application, eternal in endurance.”

What is happening here is that this believer is experiencing great hardship and difficulty. He is expressing to God his wish or desire, namely that God would graciously and mercifully come to his rescue and deliver him from all of his trouble.

Now carefully observe the source of this potential deliverance was known by this man because of “the word of God.” In other words, the concepts of God’s grace and mercy and delivering power are all based upon what God has revealed in His Word.

It is clear that this writer was thinking much about the Word of God. He was depending on what God had said and revealed in His Word to help him.

Now in **verses 42-48**, the writer presents about six requests if God would in fact deliver him:

REQUEST #1 – He asks God to deliver him so he would have an answer to one who reproached him. **119:42**

The writer was obviously being attacked and mocked. He was being held in contempt. This writer knew that there was a God revealed in the Word that could help him.

None of us are in any position to push around the Sovereign God of the Bible. What we can do is remind God of His promises and of examples of deliverances we have seen in His Word and if He is gracious enough to deliver us, we can testify to others what we saw God do. We can defend God and His Word.

It is not that God needs to do things for us so we will defend His Word, because we can defend His Word even if He slays us. However, if God does choose to deliver us, we are able to give a defense to our adversary that we trusted in God’s Word for deliverance and He fulfilled His Word.

A person who has experienced the great salvation and deliverance of God has an ability to silence the most educated of skeptics. When young people go to college they will face God-mocking philosophies that will try to seduce them away from God and His Word.

But those young people who trust God's Word and stand for God's Word will discover they will be delivered and blessed.

I cannot help but think of H. A. Ironside, who had only an 8th grade education. But from age eight, he read the Bible through once a year. He authored more than 60 books, he taught at Dallas Seminary and was invited to be a professor at Dallas, which he turned down; he was president of a book and track club and he was honored by Cambridge University. He was given honorary doctors degrees by Wheaton College and Bob Jones University. He preached the funeral of Billy Sunday. He was esteemed by some of the greatest educated minds of his day. He became a great statement for the delivering power of God. He took on the world with the Word of God. That is exactly what this Psalmist wanted.

REQUEST #2 – He asks God not to take the word of truth out of his mouth by not delivering him. **119:43**

The writer longed to understand God's Word and to be able to give a verbal witness to the delivering power of the grace and mercy of God. He longed to testify with his own mouth of God's loyal love. If God did not intervene and deliver him by His grace and mercy, then this witness would be taken out of his mouth.

Now the conjunction "for" really explains all of this. This writer wanted to be able to say that he trusted in the Word of God and the statements about God's grace, mercy, love and deliverance. He was counting on God to fulfill His Word that teaches He is a loving, gracious and merciful God.

When we trust in the Word of God and then when we see God do what His Word says, we are in a tremendous position to be able to testify and witness concerning the faithfulness of God to His Word.

If we ever get to the place where we no longer defend God's Word, we are in very serious, eternal danger. This writer never wanted to get to that place.

REQUEST #3 – He asks God to deliver him according to His Word because it promotes perpetual obedience. **119:44**

When we see God give us a deliverance from something that is in accordance with His Word, it should stir us and promote with us a desire to know more and more of His Word so we may obey it.

When Almighty God comes to our rescue because of what He has promised in His Word, we should have a perpetual desire to obey His Word forever. The passion that should always exist in God's people is that we want to accurately know God's Word and obey God's Word.

Now this passion will go on forever and ever. Dr. Merrill Unger said when God fulfills His Word to us it actually gives us the faith to continually obey His Word (*Psalms*, p. 932).

REQUEST #4 – He asks God to deliver him because it will free him to live life in accordance with the Word of God. **119:45**

Carefully look at what this verse implies—**it is the Word of God that sets a person free**. The precepts of God will give liberty to any person. If one purposes to respond to God’s Word and to understand and apply God’s Word, that person will be the freest of all.

When Jesus was here on earth, He said exactly the same thing. He said, “you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).

God’s delivering power found in His Word is freeing power. Whether it be deliverance from sin or guilt or deliverance from law and legalism or any religion or deliverance from a person or problem, when God sets a person free, that person is able to enjoy life and testify of the great delivering power of God. **But this freeing power always comes from God’s Word.**

People need to realize this. There is incredible freeing power found in the Word of God. People can be set free from all kinds of things if they zero in on understanding and applying God’s Word.

In 1883, D. L. Moody challenged all atheists in the nation to come to a meeting in which he said he would speak directly to them. At the time Charles Bradlaugh was the leader of atheism and he challenged all atheists to show up to the meeting. Well D. L. Moody preached and started sharing story after story of people he had seen die, both Christians and infidels. He said he had seen many Christians die who had a peace and hope because of their faith in Christ, but he had also seen infidels die afraid and scared because they had no hope. Well about half-way through the message, Mr. Moody said who will say they will believe on Jesus Christ. One of the atheists yelled “I won’t.” Moody said it comes right down to this either “you will believe on Christ” or “you won’t.” He said you have your spokesman saying I won’t believe in Christ, who will stand and join him?” Not one other person stood. Then Moody said, “Who will say I will believe in Christ?” Will you stand and say, “I will.” Moody said men started springing to their feet, yelling “I will, I will.”

That night in 1883, many were set free by the Word of God.

REQUEST #5 – He asks God to deliver him because it would enable him to be a bold, unashamed witness for Him and His Word. **119:46**

When a person develops a faithful confidence in God’s Word, he is able to testify of God’s Word before anyone—from a peasant to a King. Spurgeon said, “men of greatest holiness are men of greatest boldness” (*Psalms*, p. 526).

Godly boldness comes from knowing and applying God's Word. In all reality, that is what began the Reformation in the 1500's. Martin Luther was carefully studying the book of Romans and the lights went on and he started communicating the truth of God's Word.

Always remember this; there is nothing to ever be ashamed of in God's Word. It has stood the test of criticism and stood the test of time. When you stand for God's Word, you are standing alongside the greatest humans who have ever lived, including the Son of God.

The Bible has all answers to life. Never be ashamed of it and always defend it.

REQUEST #6 – He asks God to deliver him because it produces a deeper love for His Word.
119:47-48

Now the Hebrew suggests that all of these things here plus the previous one in **verse 46** are consequences that were anticipated by virtue of the fact that God answered the request:

Result #1 - He will delight in the Word of God. **119:47a**

John Phillips said, "Not many people do that. Not too many get their pleasure out of studying God's Word" (*Psalms*, Vol. 2, p. 304). Not many people find their great joy in accurately understanding the written Word of God. But the truth is this is where great delight is found. When God answers according to His grace and mercy, it positively has an effect on your emotions.

When God fulfills His promises to you, it causes you to find your greatest delight in His Word. In fact, two times in these couple of verses, the writer says, "I love the word." "I love the commandments of God."

Result #2 - He will dedicate himself to the commandments of God. **119:48a**

Now the idea behind "I shall lift up my hands" has been interpreted to mean different things:

- 1) Some believe it refers to lifting up one's hands in prayer concerning the Word (Ps. 28:2).
- 2) Some believe it refers to lifting up one's hands in worship because of the Word (Ps. 134:2).
- 3) Some believe it refers to lifting up one's hands and heart to obedience to the Word (Lam. 3:41).

Actually all three are true. When God is merciful and delivers in accordance with His Word, it prompts one to pray, worship and obey.

Again the emphasis here is on the fact that this one loves the Word of God.

Result #3 - He will meditate on the statutes of God. **119:48b**

The greatest use of our minds is that of meditating on God's Word.

When God in His grace and mercy responds to our requests, it does cause us to mediate and reflect more and more on His Word.

The best thing we can do for our emotional, mental and spiritual stability is to read and think about the precious Word of God.