



July 30, 2017

Psalm 119

“The Blessings and Benefits of the Bible - Part 4”

Pastor Gary Hamrick

In this teaching, Pastor Gary reminds us of three things: God’s love and compassion when he disciplines us, how the Bible gives us wisdom and discernment, and how we need to wait on God’s perfect timing in everything.

The Bible Is A Rich Source Of Knowledge And Good Judgment - Psalm 119:65-72

1. [Psalm 119:66](#) - *“Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I believe in your commands.”*
2. The Hebrew word for knowledge is yada, which can also mean, understanding and wisdom.
3. The Hebrew term for *“good judgment”* has to do with the ability to judge between right and wrong/good and evil, and discernment.
4. We need the wisdom and discernment of God every day, because we make decisions every day that can be life altering!
5. Pastor Gary said: “The worst time to make a decision is when you are down... because when you are down and you are discouraged and you are going through something, you don’t have clarity and you will often make an impulsive decision that you will regret later... [So] when you are down is [not the] time to make a major decision because you can’t trust your own judgment. But, it is during those times that you can trust the judgment of God’s Word.”
6. The psalm writer must have been in a “down” place in his life because twice he referred to being *“afflicted.”*

- a. [Psalm 119:67](#) - *“Before I was afflicted I went astray...”*
 - b. [Psalm 119:71](#) - *“It was good for me to be afflicted...”*
7. In the process of being “down,” the psalm writer was driven to read the Word of God, because he needed wisdom and discernment for his situation.
 8. Pastor Gary said: “... [affliction, difficulties, trials], and different things we go through, will motivate us... to search out Scripture; to get the wisdom and discernment from God that we need for our particular situation... I can’t tell you the number of times that going to God’s Word has spared me greater affliction and has brought [me] wisdom and discernment that I didn’t have.”
 9. [Psalm 119:24](#) - *“Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors.”*
 10. Pastor Gary said: “The more you get God’s Word into your heart, the more you can pull it up on instant recall when you need it in those unexpected moments when wisdom and discernment are so critically important. What if we, by getting God’s Word into [our] everyday routine started making better, wiser, more discerning decisions? How might [reading the Bible] impact your life, your marriage, your business... your health, relationships, [and] eternity?”
 11. [Proverbs 2:6](#) - *“For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.”*

The Bible Reminds Us Of God’s Unfailing Love And Compassion
When He Disciplines Us - Psalm 119:73-80

12. [Psalm 119:75](#) - *“I know, O LORD, that your laws are righteous, and in faithfulness you have afflicted me.”*
13. Pastor Gary said: “It would appear that there [was] something going in the psalmist’s life, perhaps some sin issue or some area of his life that [needed] to be surrendered, and the Lord [disciplined] him or [refined] him to make him a better man of God... Not every afflicting thing that happens to [you will be] the hand of God disciplining you... but if you’ve been a Christian long enough, you know the difference!”
14. [Psalm 119:76-77](#) - *“May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant. Let your **compassion** come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight.”* (Emphasis added)

15. **Hebrews 12:6-11** – “ ‘... the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.’ Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father? If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”
16. God’s discipline means that he loves you.
 - a. Pastor Gary said: “The pain that God afflicts is out of love for the ones he accepts.”
17. God’s discipline means that he accepts you as his child.
 - a. God is our father and we are his children, and all loving parents will discipline their children.
18. God’s discipline means that he wants to teach you something.
 - a. Paideuo is the word used for discipline in the Greek translation of Psalm 119, and it means to train, teach, instruct, or educate.
19. God’s discipline means that he wants you to be more holy and fruitful.
 - a. **1 Peter 1:16** – “... it is written: ‘Be holy, because I am holy.’ ”

The Bible Teaches Us To Wait On God’s Perfect Timing – Psalm 119:81-88

20. **Psalm 119:86-88** – “... men persecute me without cause. They almost wiped me from the earth... Preserve my life according to your love...”
21. The psalmist made complaints against God concerning what he perceived as God not seeing his need and helping him, but he turned to Scripture for strength and encouragement.
 - a. **Psalm 119:81** – “... but I have put my hope in your word.”
 - b. **Psalm 119:87** – “... but I have not forsaken your precepts.”
22. Pastor Gary said: “When I read the Bible it helps to recalibrate my life... Generally speaking, I have wanted God to work faster than what he normally does... There are times that I have felt like I wished God had done this, wished God had done that, wished God had done the other, faster than what I would have preferred. Having come through it, [and now] looking back, I can see that

God's timing was right... When I read the Bible, what happens is [that] I find in my soul... it just helps recalibrate my life so I'm more in step with God's timing and it just slows me down... The Bible, never once, gives a verse [that] exhorts us to hurry! But the Bible is replete with example after example that tell us to wait."

23. [Psalm 27:14](#) - *"Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD."*
24. [Psalm 40:1](#) - *"I waited patiently for the LORD; he turned to me and heard my cry."*
25. [Psalm 130:5-6](#) - *"I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope. My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning."*
26. Pastor Gary said: "God always shows up right on time. We have to yield to our concept to what timeliness is, and we have to trust the one [who] holds time in his hands. [He] will do things just at the right time."

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).