



August 27, 2017

Psalm 119

*“The Blessings and Benefits of the Bible - Part 6”*

Pastor Gary Hamrick

In this message, Pastor Gary examines four new sections of Psalm 119, including: what it means to have a healthy fear of the Lord, hating wrong paths, gaining wisdom, and finding encouragement from God’s Word when we experience times of trouble and distress.

The Bible Produces A Healthy Fear Of God In Us – Psalm 119:113–120

1. **Psalm 119:120** – *“My flesh trembles in fear of you; I stand in awe of your laws.”*
2. Pastor Gary said: “There is a proper way to fear him with a holy reverence and respect and then there is an unhealthy fear of God, whereby some people view God as someone who is temperamental, usually angry, hard to please, [and] quick to punish. That is, sadly, the view that some of you have of God. It amazes me [that] over 30 years of ministry, as I talked to people and interacted with people, [that] some people have a proper view of God that he is Father God. Others of you have the view that he’s the godfather!”
3. **Psalm 103:13** – *“As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him...”*
4. Pastor Gary said: “[God is] a loving Father. [And] because he’s our Father he is worthy of our honor, he is worthy of our respect, he is worthy of our adoration, and [he’s worthy] our love. He is our loving Father, but we must still fear him in a healthy way, because the same Father who loves us also happens to be the righteous judge of the universe. And if the church is to exist it must recapture a holy reverence for God. We’ve gotten too complacent with God. We are [now treating] him like he is our buddy instead of being our Savior. We treat him like

he's just the next-door neighbor, rather than being our Lord. He is creator! He is God! He is magnificent and majestic in all his ways and he is to be revered in a holy and a healthy way."

5. **Mark 4:41** - "[The disciples] were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!" "
  - a. **Mark 4:35-41** provides the account of Jesus calming the storm.
  
6. **Luke 23:39-41** - "One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults at him: 'Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!' But the other criminal rebuked him. 'Don't you fear God,' he said, 'since you are under the same sentence? We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.' "
  - a. **Luke 23:26-43** provides the account of the crucifixion of Jesus, including the interaction between Jesus and the two thieves.
  
7. **Acts 5:11** - "Great fear seized the whole church and all who heard about these events."
  - a. **Acts 5:1-11** provides the account of Ananias and his wife, Sapphira.
  
8. A healthy fear of God brings the blessing and benefit of:
  - a. A secure life
    - i. **Proverbs 14:26** - "He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge."
  - b. A restful life
    - i. **Proverbs 19:23** - "The fear of the LORD leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble."
  - c. A blessed life
    - i. **Psalms 112:1** - "Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands."
  - d. A long life
    - i. **Proverbs 10:27** - "The fear of the LORD adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short."
  - e. A protected life
    - i. **Psalms 34:7** - "The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them."

The Bible Teaches Us To Hate Wrong Paths - Psalm 119:121-128

9. **Psalm 119:128** - "Because I consider all your precepts right, I hate every wrong path."

- a. The Hebrew word for hate is sane, which means, to have disgust or revulsion for something.
  - b. The Hebrew word for wrong is shakir, which means, untrue, false, lying or deceptive.
  - c. The Hebrew word for path or way is orach, which means, a well-trodden road.
    - i. By using this word, the psalmist is indicating that he recognized the vast number of people who are were on the paths of falsehood, lying, etc.
10. Pastor Gary said: “I don’t think that he hates every wrong path because he’s on them; I think, quite to the contrary, he’s not on the wrong paths he’s on the right path because he understands what is right and true because he knows God’s Word. What he hates are all [of] these lying, deceptive paths that have the potential to lead so many people astray. He hates all of these well-traveled, popular roads... Please note the distinction! He does not hate the people, he hates the paths that people on are on. In fact, he loves people so much that why he hates the paths, because he sees so many people being deceived and being lied to. And there are a lot of well-traveled, popular roads that are leading many people astray, even in our own culture...”
- a. Pastor Gary shared the following examples of “popular roads” that have led many people astray: the lie of evolution, the lie that God makes mistakes in gender identity,<sup>1</sup> the lie of sexual freedom that can and should be expressed outside of marriage between one man and one woman, the lie that it’s perfectly normal to experiment with drugs and alcohol, the lie that all paths lead to God.<sup>2</sup>
  - b. Pastor Gary said: “The truth is, that while those things [see #10a] may be pleasurable for a season, in the end, they [will] only lead to disappointment and emptiness, and they [will] rob you of ultimate fulfillment that can only be found in a relationship with Christ... Our world is full of well-traveled paths that are lying [to many people] and deceiving many people; promising much, but delivering little; offering satisfaction but proving empty.”
11. [Matthew 7:13-14](#) - *“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”*

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<sup>1</sup> The truth is found in [Psalm 139:14](#) and [Ephesians 2:10](#).

<sup>2</sup> The truth is found in [John 14:6](#).

## The Bible Makes The Simple Wise - Psalm 119:129-136

12. **Psalm 119:130** - *“The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.”*
13. **Psalm 19:7** - *“The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy making wise the simple.”*
14. The Hebrew word for simple is pethi, which can mean, someone who is young, inexperienced, uneducated, or one who lacks common sense.
15. Pastor Gary said: “Not all minds are the same... The wonderful thing about the Bible is that no matter what information you’ve been exposed to and no matter what kind of education you’ve been able to get, the Bible has this wonderful way of leveling the playing field, and making the simple wise... When you read the Bible, it helps you to be wise about things concerning life... Knowledge is the accumulation of information, [and] wisdom is the application [of information].”
16. Pastor Gary shared a personal story about the blessing and benefit he received from Harry “Buck” Lewis, which was the result of the remarkable and radical transformation in his life when the Lord saved him and made him a new man.<sup>3</sup> Because “Buck” read the Bible and understood the deep yet simple truths of Scripture, a simple man became wise beyond his education and experience.<sup>4 5</sup>
17. **Acts 4:13** - *“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.”*

## The Bible Brings Delight To Our Trouble And Distress - Psalm 119:137-144

18. **Psalm 119:143** - *“Trouble and distress have come upon me, but your commands are my delight.”*
19. **John 16:33** - *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

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<sup>3</sup> **2 Corinthians 5:17** - *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”*

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/fredericknewspost/obituary.aspx?n=harry-lewis&pid=168373603&fhid=18394>

<sup>5</sup> Pastor Gary shared his story about “Buck” Lewis from 28:41 to 32:32. Use this link to watch the message: [https://cornerstonechapel.net/?page\\_id=418&i=1234](https://cornerstonechapel.net/?page_id=418&i=1234)

20. Pastor Gary said: “Trouble and distress are the evil twin children of this world, and at some point, or another, you will meet them. Trouble and distress come in various degrees, [and] at various times, and our lives will be impacted in one way or another by a certain amount of trouble, by a certain amount of distress.”
21. The psalmist is not saying that the Lord would turn trouble and distress into delight, but that in the midst of trouble and distress, that reading Scripture would cheer him up, so to speak, and that Scripture would bring encouragement when the outlook was bleak.
22. Pastor Gary said: “If we ever lived in a day when we need a reliable source of encouragement it’s today. In the midst of our trouble, [and] in the midst of our distress, when [we] read God’s Word it will cheer [us] up and bring [us] encouragement. It won’t necessarily make trouble and distress go away, but it will make the trouble and distress more manageable, because the encouragement comes from God’s Word.”

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