



September 3, 2017

Psalm 119

“The Blessings and Benefits of the Bible - Part 7”

Pastor Gary Hamrick

This is the seventh and final message in Pastor Gary’s series in Psalm 119. In the last four sections of this psalm, we will learn about God’s nearness, God’s peace, God’s help for our speech, and God’s plan of salvation for humanity.

The Bible Reminds Us Of The Nearness Of God – Psalm 119:145-152

1. **Psalm 119:151** – *“Yet you are near, O LORD, and all your commands are true.”*
2. Pastor Gary said: “When I read my Bible, it just reminds me that he is near. Sometimes it [feels like] God is distant, and sometimes he feels distant because he is unseen. God is Spirit and as such he is unseen... [When] someone is unseen and we aren’t able to engage our senses, we need some validation... reminder... assurance that, in fact, God is near, and the Bible becomes my eyes... The Bible helps me to understand, relative to my feelings [about] what is reality... [because] feelings are not reality [and they are] not reliable.”
3. Isaac experienced the nearness of God.
 - a. **Genesis 26:3** – *“Stay in this land for a while, and I will be with you and will bless you.”*
4. Moses experienced the nearness of God.
 - a. **Exodus 3:11-12a** – *“But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?’ And God said, ‘I will be with you.’ ”*

5. Joshua experienced the nearness of God.
 - a. [Joshua 1:5b](#) - *“As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*

6. The Israelites experienced the nearness of God.
 - a. [Deuteronomy 31:8](#) - *“The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”*

7. Christians experience the nearness of God.
 - a. [Matthew 28:20b](#) - *“And surely I [Jesus] am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

8. Not only will Christians experience the nearness of God; they will also experience the indwelling of the Holy Spirit!
 - a. [John 17:26](#) - *“I [Jesus] have made known to them [the disciples], and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them.”*

9. Pastor Gary said: “No other world religion makes that claim [indwelling Holy Spirit] ... Buddhism does not claim that Buddha... comes to live in you. Islam does not teach that Muslims have Allah in them. Hinduism does not teach Shiva or Vishnu or all [of] the multitudes of gods that Hindus worship [will] come in [them]. No, all other world religions present a distant god... an impersonal god, not someone who actually promises that upon relationship [will come] in an individual, but that’s what the Bible teaches regarding Christians.”

10. [John 14:16-17](#) - *“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”*

11. Pastor Gary said: “This is a profound mystery that the Bible teaches, but it is powerful in all of its implications... The Bible teaches that every human being is made up of three components: [body, soul, and spirit.] Now, your body is the physical aspect of who you are; it’s the tangible flesh; it’s who you see... The soul and the spirit are inextricably linked. The soul is the seat of the mind, will, and emotion. It is that part of you that feels, and thinks, and reasons... And you retain that capacity to think, and to reason, and to feel, even after you die, because your soul is attached to your spirit... Spirit is the real essence of who you are... [and your spirit] will live on after your flesh dies and decomposes... Your spirit lives forever. The question is, ‘Where will your spirit live?’ If you have

relationship with God, your spirit will live forever with the Lord. If you don't, your spirit lives forever separated from the [Lord]."

12. A Christian's spirit will bear likeness to their physical body."¹
13. **Romans 8:11** - *"And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you."*
14. **Psalm 46:1** - *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."*

The Bible Reveals God's Plan Of Salvation - Psalm 119:153-160

15. **Psalm 119:155** - *"Salvation is far from the wicked, for they do not seek out your decrees."*
16. The implication is that if the wicked would seek out the Lord's decrees, they would find salvation.
17. The Bible is the handbook about God's plan of salvation.
18. The word salvation carries with it the understanding that we need to be rescued/saved.
19. Sin has plagued the human race since Adam rebelled and sinned against God in the Garden of Eden.
20. Pastor Gary said: "Sin is not only about [our] condition; it's about [our] conduct. It is [about] how [we] are born... with a sin nature, and because we have a sin nature, we sin. And, we sin because we have a sin nature... There is no cure, humanly speaking, for this terminal disease. There is nothing I can do or you can do to undo our terminal illness of this sin condition... You cannot try to compensate for bad behavior just by doing a lot of good things. Behavior modification, while noble, cannot save anyone from the underlying illness that is killing everyone... All of us need salvation... [And] salvation comes through a Savior, and his name is Jesus."
 - a. **Acts 4:12** - *"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."*

¹ Use this link to access Pastor Gary's message in the Teaching Library - https://cornerstonechapel.net/?page_id=418&i=1236. Go to 14:02 - 15:44 to listen to Pastor Gary's comments about what Christians will experience in heaven regarding their spirit and being recognized as the person they were on earth.

21. Salvation is the story of the great exchange, in that God's perfect son died on our behalf, so that, by faith, his righteousness would be imputed to us!
22. When we read the Bible, we understand our sin problem and God's solution.
- a. **John 3:16-18** - *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."*
23. Pastor Gary said: "When you come to grips with your desperate condition, [and] when you realize the sin problem of your own heart, you will not balk at the idea that there is one way to get to heaven. You will rejoice and be grateful that God made a way to heaven and [he] invited you!"
24. **Acts 16:31** - *"... 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved...'"*

The Bible Brings Us Great Peace - Psalm 119:161-168

25. **Psalm 119:165** - *"Great peace have they who love your law, and nothing can make them stumble."*
26. Pastor Gary said: "So many things in this life will rob us of our peace, [including]: conflict around the world; uncertainty about the future; bad health; loss of a job; death of a loved one; marital conflict; difficulties with children; loneliness; financial hardship; on and on, the list goes... So often we are doing all we can to keep our head above water, in terms of not wanting to give in to anxiety and fear, but [anxiety and fear] usually is the default... and we lose our peace. We need to understand, first of all, that God is the source of peace. I mean the real peace that can wash over the human heart... The thing that combats anxiety and fear in my life is the Word of God, and when I read it, it's like medicine to [my] restless, anxious heart."
- a. **Isaiah 26:3** - *"You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in you."*
 - b. **John 14:27** - *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*

The Bible Trains Us For Proper Speech – Psalm 119:169-176

27. **Psalm 119:171-172** - *“May my lips overflow with praise, for you teach me your decrees. May my tongue sing of your word, for all your commands are righteous.”*
28. **Psalm 141:3** - *“Set a guard over my mouth, O LORD: keep watch over the door of my lips.”*
29. If we have a problem with bad language, a critical or berating tongue, being quick to speak and slow to listen, lying, gossiping, or slandering others, then we need to read the Bible so we can receive training for proper, God-honoring speech.
 - a. **James 1:19** - *“My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak...”*
 - b. **Matthew 12:36** - *“But I [Jesus] tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken.”*
 - c. **Ephesians 4:29** - *“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”*
30. Reading the Bible will help us be edifying to others and glorifying to God!
31. **Psalm 19:14** - *“May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.”*

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