

## 5-Day Devotional Series

### Praying Scripture: Learning to Pray Prayers Designed to Give us Hearts More Like Jesus -From Psalm 119

#### Day 3:

#### *Psalm 119 –David’s Heartfelt Prayers*

#### How We Got Here:

We started this discussion by observing that our witness to the world involves us sharing not just our message but also transformed hopeful hearts (Day 1) > this led to a discussion of the heart: David (the man after God’s own heart) > introducing Psalm 119: ( A Psalm of David which models a heart filled to the brim with God’s word) > Our hearts: God’s actions upon (salvation: giving us a new heart) and eternal plan for (transformation to Christ-likeness) our hearts. We noted the crucial role that needy prayer plays in these > which led to a foundational prayer of David we see in vs. 32 “I will run in the way of your commandments *when you enlarge my heart!*”

#### Today:

We will get into Psalm 119 and look at several different types of prayers that David prays by grouping together similar verses. By grouping certain verses together we can see how fervent David’s heart was in these areas. While these groupings are not comprehensive for sake of brevity, they represent what David’s heart was like.

The prayers that we look at today should really challenge us, and yet also be really exciting. Remember, these are God-given prayers meant to teach us how God desires *our* hearts to be. As you read through them, think about David’s heart praying these with full sincerity directly to God. David’s prayers are incredibly bold! Imagine yourself saying these things directly to God... Then, we should ask: is my heart like David’s heart? Does my heart seek and respond to God’s word like David’s heart does? Do I pray like this? For most of us, the answer will probably be, not yet. But remember to take hope! These verses not only show us David’s heart but are also *prayers*. They are for us to start praying. We pray with David: “*Incline my heart to your testimonies...*” (vs. 36). If God has given us these prayers to pray, how much more will He answer them? “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” (Rom 8:32). Tomorrow, we will go through a suggested 8 Steps For Praying Hard Prayers like these.

#### David’s Heartfelt Prayers

##### 1. David’s Heart: Loves/Delights in/Rejoices in/ God’s word

vs. 24 *Your testimonies are my delight; they are my counselors.*

Vs. 35 Lead me in the path of your commandments, *for I delight in it.*

Vs. 46-48 I will speak of your testimonies before kings...*for I find my delight in your commandments which I love...I will lift up my hands toward your commandments, which I love, and I will meditate on your statutes.*

Vs. 97 *Oh how I love your law!* It is my meditation all the day.

Vs. 103 *How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

Vs. 111 Your testimonies are my heritage forever, *for they are the joy of my heart.*  
 Vs. 131 I open my mouth and pant, *because I long for your commandments.*  
 Vs. 167 My soul keeps your testimonies; *I love them exceedingly*

## **2. David's Heart: Sees God's word as Incomparable**

Vs. 14 In the way of your testimonies *I delight, as much as in all riches*  
 Vs. 72 The law of your mouth *is better to me than thousands of gold and silver pieces.*  
 Vs. 96 I have seen a limit to all perfection, but your commandment is exceedingly broad.  
 Vs. 127 Therefore I love your commandments *above gold, above fine gold.*

## **3. David's Heart: Clings to God's Word at All Times During the Day**

Vs. 55 I remember your name *in the night, O Lord, and keep your law*  
 Vs. 62 *At midnight* I rise to praise you, because of your righteous rules.  
 Vs. 147 I rise *before dawn* and cry for help; I hope in *your words*  
 Vs. 148 "My eyes are awake *before the watches of the night*, that I may meditate on your promise  
 Vs. 164 "*Seven times a day I praise you* for your righteous rules.

## **4. David's Heart: Expresses His Absolute Commitment to Follow God.**

Vs. 30 *I have chosen the way of faithfulness*; I set your rules before me.  
 Vs. 44 *I will keep your law continually, forever and ever.*  
 vs. 93 *I will never forget your precepts*, for by them you have given me life.  
 Vs. 106 *I have sworn an oath, and confirmed it*, to keep your righteous rules.  
 Vs. 112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes, *forever, to the end.*

## **5. David's Heart: Seeks God's Word in Suffering/ Views Suffering Differently**

Vs. 50 *This is my comfort in my affliction*, that your promise gives me life.  
 Vs. 67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep your word.  
 Vs. 71 *It is good for me that I was afflicted*, that I might learn your statutes."  
 Vs. 144 Trouble and anguish have found me out, *but your commandments are my delight.*

## **6. David's Heart: Asks for God's Grace/ Seeks to be Taught**

Vs. 12 Blessed are you, O Lord; *teach me your statutes!*  
 Vs. 33 *Teach me, O Lord*, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.  
 Vs. 66 *Teach me good judgment and knowledge*, for I believe in your commandments.  
 Vs. 17 *Deal bountifully* with your servant, that I may live and keep your word.  
 Vs. 58 *I entreat your favor with all my heart*; be gracious to me according to your promise.  
 Vs. 18 *Open my eyes*, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.  
 Vs. 27 *Make me understand* the way of your precepts, and I will meditate on your wondrous works.  
 Vs. 34 *Give me understanding* that I may *keep your law and observe it with my whole heart*

## **Devotional Application: (The numbers correspond to the sections above)**

-Pick some of these and pray them for yourself, your small group (if applicable) your church, your children, and for unbelievers (that it might be true of them).

1. **Delight in Word:** Do you love God’s word this much? Do you rejoice in it this much? Is David being hyperbolic? No. We should confess our heart’s lack of delight in God’s word, and pray for grace to have this kind of heart. Remember, God enlarges hearts! What really astounds me is that in a lot of these David *is speaking directly to God*. Can you pray these things to God’s face? And yet, David does, because God has so changed his heart. Pray some of these.

3 .**God’s Word At All Times:** Pray and praise God for the gift of his word! “Seven times a day, I will praise you for your righteous rules.”

4. **Absolute Commitment:** These verses are so convicting to me. I almost felt like I could not pray them, that I should not. And yet, we should start to, while also praying, “Lord: ‘enlarge my heart’” (vs. 32).

5. Think back on times you’ve really suffered (vs 67, 71), was God faithful to “teach you his statutes?” Praise him for being faithful to make you more like Jesus even through suffering.

6. Pray this prayer: Oh Lord: “*Deal bountifully* with your servant... Deal bountifully... that I may live and keep your word...I need your bountiful grace if I am ever to be like Jesus...Teach me Lord, Teach me.

**Juliet’s demonstration of vs. 47!** “I will lift up my hands towards your commandments, which I love!”

