



Psalm 119:81–104  
The Complexity of Life and  
the Clarity of the Word

Psalm  
119:81–104

*The Psalms produce Christians who walk through the darkest times with an unswerving confidence in God and His Word.*

**Psalm 119:81–104 presents the clarity of God's Word in the muddy complexity of life and its sorrows.**

Psalm 119:81–88 Cries for God's Intervention

- <sup>81</sup> My soul longs for your salvation;  
I hope in your word.  
<sup>82</sup> My eyes long for your promise;  
I ask, "When will you comfort me?"  
<sup>83</sup> For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke,  
yet I have not forgotten your statutes.  
<sup>84</sup> How long must your servant endure?  
When will you judge those who persecute me?  
<sup>85</sup> The insolent have dug pitfalls for me;  
they do not live according to your law.  
<sup>86</sup> All your commandments are sure;  
they persecute me with falsehood; help me!  
<sup>87</sup> They have almost made an end of me on earth,  
but I have not forsaken your precepts.  
<sup>88</sup> In your steadfast love give me life,  
that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth.

Psalm 119:81–88 Cries for God's Intervention

- Metaphor: The wineskin in smoke (v.83)

"He points out, not only the severity of his affliction, but also its lingering nature— that is, he was tormented by a slow fire. By the smoke that slowly proceeds and burns and dries little by little."  
John Calvin

Psalm 119:81–88 Cries for God's Intervention

"Whatever our circumstances are we must not cool in our love for the word of God, nor let that slip out of our minds; no care, no grief, must crowd the word out. Some *drink and forget the word*; others weep and forget; but in every circumstance, both in prosperity and adversity, we must remember the things of God; and, if we be mindful of God's statutes, we may pray and hope that he will be mindful of our sorrows, though for a time he seems to forget us."

- Matthew Henry

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- Cause of suffering: persecution and oppression (v.84–85)

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that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth.

### Psalm 119:89–96 The Clarity of God’s Word

- <sup>89</sup> Forever, O Lord, your word  
is firmly fixed in the heavens.
- <sup>90</sup> Your faithfulness endures to all generations;  
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.
- <sup>91</sup> By your appointment they stand this day,  
for all things are your servants.
- <sup>92</sup> If your law had not been my delight,  
I would have perished in my affliction.
- <sup>93</sup> I will never forget your precepts,  
for by them you have given me life.
- <sup>94</sup> I am yours; save me,  
for I have sought your precepts.
- <sup>95</sup> The wicked lie in wait to destroy me,  
but I consider your testimonies.
- <sup>96</sup> I have seen a limit to all perfection,  
but your commandment is exceedingly broad.

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### Psalm 119:89–96 The Clarity of God’s Word

- Key Word: “***Forever***”
- The heavens and earth are symbols of the permanence of God’s eternal Word. They are servants that point to Him and are permanently upheld by the Word.
- Troubles and sufferings and life itself is fleeting. The Psalm is calling us to delight in something eternal: the Word of God.

### The Messiah in Psalm 119:81-96

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2. Jesus is the one who perfectly delighted in the Law and all the promises of God are “yes” and “forever” in Him (Psalm 119:89-96)

### Conclusion (Psalm 119:97–104): Delight in the Eternal (Forever) Word of God

- <sup>97</sup> Oh how I love your law!  
It is my meditation all the day.
- <sup>98</sup> Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,  
for it is ever with me.
- <sup>99</sup> I have more understanding than all my teachers,  
for your testimonies are my meditation.
- <sup>100</sup> I understand more than the aged,<sup>[a]</sup>  
for I keep your precepts.
- <sup>101</sup> I hold back my feet from every evil way,  
in order to keep your word.
- <sup>102</sup> I do not turn aside from your rules,  
for you have taught me.
- <sup>103</sup> How sweet are your words to my taste,  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!
- <sup>104</sup> Through your precepts I get understanding;  
therefore I hate every false way.