

# *Psalm 117*

*(New International Version)*

<sup>1</sup> *Praise the LORD, all you nations;  
extol him, all you peoples.*

<sup>2</sup> *For great is his love toward us,  
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever.*

*Praise the LORD.*

## The Story Behind the Psalm

It was written to be a chorus. Just like we have choir arrangements, congregational songs and choruses, this, the shortest chapter in the Bible and the shortest of the Psalms, was sung like we sing our choruses.

## The Way It Was Used by God's People

It was used around the family circle and in informal gatherings as well as occasionally in a public worship in just the same manner that we would use choruses today.

Theme: Another reason for praise God's love for the whole world. We should praise God for his unlimited love.

Author: Anonymous

PSALM 117:1, 2

Not only is Psalm 117 the shortest chapter in the Bible, it is also the middle chapter. Paul quotes from this psalm in Romans 15:11 to show that God's salvation is for *all* people, not just the Jews.

PSALM 117:1, 2

Have you ever said, I can't think of anything God has done for me. How can I praise him? This psalm gives two reasons for praising God: his unending love toward us and his faithfulness that endures forever. If he did nothing else for us, he would still be worthy of our highest praise.

# Psalm 118

*(New International Version)*

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his love endures forever.

*2 Let Israel say:*

*"His love endures forever."*

*3 Let the house of Aaron say:*

*His love endures forever.*

*4 Let those who fear the LORD say:*

*His love endures forever.*

*5 When hard pressed, I cried to the LORD;  
he brought me into a spacious place.*

*6 The LORD is with me; I will not be afraid.  
What can mere mortals do to me?*

*7 The LORD is with me; he is my helper.  
I look in triumph on my enemies.*

*8 It is better to take refuge in the LORD  
than to trust in humans.*

*9 It is better to take refuge in the LORD  
than to trust in princes.*

*10 All the nations surrounded me,  
but in the name of the LORD I cut them down.*

*11 They surrounded me on every side,  
but in the name of the LORD I cut them down.*

*12 They swarmed around me like bees,  
but they were consumed as quickly as burning thorns;  
in the name of the LORD I cut them down.*

*13 I was pushed back and about to fall,  
but the LORD helped me.*

*14 The LORD is my strength and my defense;  
he has become my salvation.*

*15 Shouts of joy and victory  
resound in the tents of the righteous:  
The LORD's right hand has done mighty things!*

*16 The LORD's right hand is lifted high;  
the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!*

*17 I will not die but live,*

*and will proclaim what the LORD has done.*  
*18 The LORD has chastened me severely,*  
*but he has not given me over to death.*  
*19 Open for me the gates of the righteous;*  
*I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.*  
*20 This is the gate of the LORD*  
*through which the righteous may enter.*  
*21 I will give you thanks, for you answered me;*  
*you have become my salvation.*

*22 The stone the builders rejected*  
*has become the cornerstone;*  
*23 the LORD has done this,*  
*and it is marvelous in our eyes.*  
*24 The LORD has done it this very day;*  
*let us rejoice today and be glad.*

*25 LORD, save us!*  
*LORD, grant us success!*

*26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.*  
*From the house of the LORD we bless you.*  
*27 The LORD is God,*  
*and he has made his light shine on us.*  
*With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession*  
*up to the horns of the altar.*

*28 You are my God, and I will praise you;*  
*you are my God, and I will exalt you.*

*29 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;*  
*his love endures forever.*

## The Story Behind the Psalm

This is an antiphonal Psalm, which means it was sung responsively by two groups of singers. It was used by a divided choir. It was sometimes used by a divided congregation, and at other times it was used as responsive singing between the congregation and the choir. It was written for this specific purpose.

## The Way It Was Used by God's People

Obviously it was used mainly for public worship, though it could be used by a large family divided into two groups.

Theme: Confidence in God's eternal love. God's love is unchanging in the midst of changing situations. This gives us security.

Author: Anonymous

#### PSALM 118:8

Pilots put confidence in their planes. Commuters place confidence in trains, cars, or buses. Each day we must put our confidence in something or someone. If you are willing to trust a plane or car to get you to your destination, are you willing to trust God to guide you here on earth and to your eternal destination? Do you trust him more than any human being? How futile it is to trust anything or anyone more than God.

#### PSALM 118:22, 23

Jesus referred to this verse when he spoke of being rejected by his own people (Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10, 11; Luke 20:17). Although he was rejected, Jesus is now the cornerstone, the most important part of the church (Acts 4:11; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:6, 7). The cornerstone is the foundation stone, holding the structure together.

#### PSALM 118:24

There are days when the last thing we want to do is rejoice. Our mood is down, our situation is out of hand, and our sorrow or guilt is overwhelming. We can relate to the writers of the psalms who often felt this way. But no matter how low the psalmists felt, they were always honest with God. And as they talked to God, their prayers ended in praise. When you don't feel like rejoicing, tell God how you truly feel. You will find that God will give you a reason to rejoice. God has given you this day to live and to serve him be glad!

## *Psalm 119*

*(New International Version)*

κ Aleph

<sup>1</sup> *Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,  
who walk according to the law of the LORD.*

<sup>2</sup> *Blessed are those who keep his statutes  
and seek him with all their heart*

<sup>3</sup> they do no wrong  
but follow his ways.  
<sup>4</sup> You have laid down precepts  
that are to be fully obeyed.  
<sup>5</sup> Oh, that my ways were steadfast  
in obeying your decrees!  
<sup>6</sup> Then I would not be put to shame  
when I consider all your commands.  
<sup>7</sup> I will praise you with an upright heart  
as I learn your righteous laws.  
<sup>8</sup> I will obey your decrees;  
do not utterly forsake me.

כ Beth

<sup>9</sup> How can a young person stay on the path of purity?  
By living according to your word.  
<sup>10</sup> I seek you with all my heart;  
do not let me stray from your commands.  
<sup>11</sup> I have hidden your word in my heart  
that I might not sin against you.  
<sup>12</sup> Praise be to you, LORD;  
teach me your decrees.  
<sup>13</sup> With my lips I recount  
all the laws that come from your mouth.  
<sup>14</sup> I rejoice in following your statutes  
as one rejoices in great riches.  
<sup>15</sup> I meditate on your precepts  
and consider your ways.  
<sup>16</sup> I delight in your decrees;  
I will not neglect your word.

ג Gimel

<sup>17</sup> Be good to your servant while I live,  
that I may obey your word.  
<sup>18</sup> Open my eyes that I may see  
wonderful things in your law.  
<sup>19</sup> I am a stranger on earth;  
do not hide your commands from me.  
<sup>20</sup> My soul is consumed with longing  
for your laws at all times.  
<sup>21</sup> You rebuke the arrogant, who are accursed,  
those who stray from your commands.  
<sup>22</sup> Remove from me their scorn and contempt,  
for I keep your statutes.  
<sup>23</sup> Though rulers sit together and slander me,  
your servant will meditate on your decrees.  
<sup>24</sup> Your statutes are my delight;  
they are my counselors.

ד Daleth

<sup>25</sup> I am laid low in the dust;  
preserve my life according to your word.  
<sup>26</sup> I gave an account of my ways and you answered me;  
teach me your decrees.  
<sup>27</sup> Cause me to understand the way of your precepts,  
that I may meditate on your wonderful deeds.  
<sup>28</sup> My soul is weary with sorrow;  
strengthen me according to your word.  
<sup>29</sup> Keep me from deceitful ways;  
be gracious to me and teach me your law.  
<sup>30</sup> I have chosen the way of faithfulness;  
I have set my heart on your laws.  
<sup>31</sup> I hold fast to your statutes, LORD;  
do not let me be put to shame.  
<sup>32</sup> I run in the path of your commands,  
for you have broadened my understanding.

h He

<sup>33</sup> Teach me, LORD, the way of your decrees,  
that I may follow it to the end.  
<sup>34</sup> Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law  
and obey it with all my heart.  
<sup>35</sup> Direct me in the path of your commands,  
for there I find delight.  
<sup>36</sup> Turn my heart toward your statutes  
and not toward selfish gain.  
<sup>37</sup> Turn my eyes away from worthless things;  
preserve my life according to your word.  
<sup>38</sup> Fulfill your promise to your servant,  
so that you may be feared.  
<sup>39</sup> Take away the disgrace I dread,  
for your laws are good.  
<sup>40</sup> How I long for your precepts!  
In your righteousness preserve my life.

i Waw

<sup>41</sup> May your unfailing love come to me, LORD,  
your salvation, according to your promise;  
<sup>42</sup> then I can answer anyone who taunts me,  
for I trust in your word.  
<sup>43</sup> Never take your word of truth from my mouth,  
for I have put my hope in your laws.  
<sup>44</sup> I will always obey your law,  
for ever and ever.  
<sup>45</sup> I will walk about in freedom,  
for I have sought out your precepts.  
<sup>46</sup> I will speak of your statutes before kings  
and will not be put to shame,  
<sup>47</sup> for I delight in your commands

*because I love them.*

<sup>48</sup> *I reach out for your commands, which I love,  
that I may meditate on your decrees.*

*r Zayin*

<sup>49</sup> *Remember your word to your servant,  
for you have given me hope.*

<sup>50</sup> *My comfort in my suffering is this:  
Your promise preserves my life.*

<sup>51</sup> *The arrogant mock me unmercifully,  
but I do not turn from your law.*

<sup>52</sup> *I remember, LORD, your ancient laws,  
and I find comfort in them.*

<sup>53</sup> *Indignation grips me because of the wicked,  
who have forsaken your law.*

<sup>54</sup> *Your decrees are the theme of my song  
wherever I lodge.*

<sup>55</sup> *In the night, LORD, I remember your name,  
that I may keep your law.*

<sup>56</sup> *This has been my practice:  
I obey your precepts.*

*n Heth*

<sup>57</sup> *You are my portion, LORD;*

*I have promised to obey your words.*

<sup>58</sup> *I have sought your face with all my heart;  
be gracious to me according to your promise.*

<sup>59</sup> *I have considered my ways  
and have turned my steps to your statutes.*

<sup>60</sup> *I will hasten and not delay  
to obey your commands.*

<sup>61</sup> *Though the wicked bind me with ropes,  
I will not forget your law.*

<sup>62</sup> *At midnight I rise to give you thanks  
for your righteous laws.*

<sup>63</sup> *I am a friend to all who fear you,  
to all who follow your precepts.*

<sup>64</sup> *The earth is filled with your love, LORD;  
teach me your decrees.*

*v Teth*

<sup>65</sup> *Do good to your servant  
according to your word, LORD.*

<sup>66</sup> *Teach me knowledge and good judgment,  
for I trust your commands.*

<sup>67</sup> *Before I was afflicted I went astray,  
but now I obey your word.*

<sup>68</sup> *You are good, and what you do is good;  
teach me your decrees.*

- <sup>69</sup> *Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies,  
I keep your precepts with all my heart.*  
<sup>70</sup> *Their hearts are callous and unfeeling,  
but I delight in your law.*  
<sup>71</sup> *It was good for me to be afflicted  
so that I might learn your decrees.*  
<sup>72</sup> *The law from your mouth is more precious to me  
than thousands of pieces of silver and gold.*

· Yodh

- <sup>73</sup> *Your hands made me and formed me;  
give me understanding to learn your commands.*  
<sup>74</sup> *May those who fear you rejoice when they see me,  
for I have put my hope in your word.*  
<sup>75</sup> *I know, LORD, that your laws are righteous,  
and that in faithfulness you have afflicted me.*  
<sup>76</sup> *May your unfailing love be my comfort,  
according to your promise to your servant.*  
<sup>77</sup> *Let your compassion come to me that I may live,  
for your law is my delight.*  
<sup>78</sup> *May the arrogant be put to shame for wronging me without cause;  
but I will meditate on your precepts.*  
<sup>79</sup> *May those who fear you turn to me,  
those who understand your statutes.*  
<sup>80</sup> *May I wholeheartedly follow your decrees,  
that I may not be put to shame.*

◊ Kaph

- <sup>81</sup> *My soul faints with longing for your salvation,  
but I have put my hope in your word.*  
<sup>82</sup> *My eyes fail, looking for your promise;  
I say, "When will you comfort me?"*  
<sup>83</sup> *Though I am like a wineskin in the smoke,  
I do not forget your decrees.*  
<sup>84</sup> *How long must your servant wait?  
When will you punish my persecutors?*  
<sup>85</sup> *The arrogant dig pits to trap me,  
contrary to your law.*  
<sup>86</sup> *All your commands are trustworthy;  
help me, for I am being persecuted without cause.*  
<sup>87</sup> *They almost wiped me from the earth,  
but I have not forsaken your precepts.*  
<sup>88</sup> *In your unfailing love preserve my life,  
that I may obey the statutes of your mouth.*

⋈ Lamedh

- <sup>89</sup> *Your word, LORD, is eternal;  
it stands firm in the heavens.*  
<sup>90</sup> *Your faithfulness continues through all generations;*



*you established the earth, and it endures.*

<sup>91</sup> *Your laws endure to this day,  
for all things serve you.*

<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 preserved my life.*

<sup>94</sup> *Save me, for I am yours;  
I have sought out your precepts.*

<sup>95</sup> *The wicked are waiting to destroy me,  
but I will ponder your statutes.*

<sup>96</sup> *To all perfection I see a limit,  
but your commands are boundless.*

*n Mem*

<sup>97</sup> *Oh, how I love your law!  
I meditate on it all day long.*

<sup>98</sup> *Your commands are always with me  
and make me wiser than my enemies.*

<sup>99</sup> *I have more insight than all my teachers,  
for I meditate on your statutes.*

<sup>100</sup> *I have more understanding than the elders,  
for I obey your precepts.*

<sup>101</sup> *I have kept my feet from every evil path  
so that I might obey your word.*

<sup>102</sup> *I have not departed from your laws,  
for you yourself have taught me.*

<sup>103</sup> *How sweet are your words to my taste,  
sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

<sup>104</sup> *I gain understanding from your precepts;  
therefore I hate every wrong path.*

*n Nun*

<sup>105</sup> *Your word is a lamp for my feet,  
a light on my path.*

<sup>106</sup> *I have taken an oath and confirmed it,  
that I will follow your righteous laws.*

<sup>107</sup> *I have suffered much;  
preserve my life, LORD, according to your word.*

<sup>108</sup> *Accept, LORD, the willing praise of my mouth,  
and teach me your laws.*

<sup>109</sup> *Though I constantly take my life in my hands,  
I will not forget your law.*

<sup>110</sup> *The wicked have set a snare for me,  
but I have not strayed from your precepts.*

<sup>111</sup> *Your statutes are my heritage forever;  
they are the joy of my heart.*

<sup>112</sup> *My heart is set on keeping your decrees  
to the very end.*

o Samekh

- <sup>113</sup> I hate double-minded people,  
but I love your law.  
<sup>114</sup> You are my refuge and my shield;  
I have put my hope in your word.  
<sup>115</sup> Away from me, you evildoers,  
that I may keep the commands of my God!  
<sup>116</sup> Sustain me, my God, according to your promise, and I will live;  
do not let my hopes be dashed.  
<sup>117</sup> Uphold me, and I will be delivered;  
I will always have regard for your decrees.  
<sup>118</sup> You reject all who stray from your decrees,  
for their delusions come to nothing.  
<sup>119</sup> All the wicked of the earth you discard like dross;  
therefore I love your statutes.  
<sup>120</sup> My flesh trembles in fear of you;  
I stand in awe of your laws.

υ Ayin

- <sup>121</sup> I have done what is righteous and just;  
do not leave me to my oppressors.  
<sup>122</sup> Ensure your servant's well-being;  
do not let the arrogant oppress me.  
<sup>123</sup> My eyes fail, looking for your salvation,  
looking for your righteous promise.  
<sup>124</sup> Deal with your servant according to your love  
and teach me your decrees.  
<sup>125</sup> I am your servant; give me discernment  
that I may understand your statutes.  
<sup>126</sup> It is time for you to act, LORD;  
your law is being broken.  
<sup>127</sup> Because I love your commands  
more than gold, more than pure gold,  
<sup>128</sup> and because I consider all your precepts right,  
I hate every wrong path.

פ Pe

- <sup>129</sup> Your statutes are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them.  
<sup>130</sup> The unfolding of your words gives light;  
it gives understanding to the simple.  
<sup>131</sup> I open my mouth and pant,  
longing for your commands.  
<sup>132</sup> Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
as you always do to those who love your name.  
<sup>133</sup> Direct my footsteps according to your word;  
let no sin rule over me.  
<sup>134</sup> Redeem me from human oppression,  
that I may obey your precepts.

<sup>135</sup> Make your face shine on your servant  
and teach me your decrees.

<sup>136</sup> Streams of tears flow from my eyes,  
for your law is not obeyed.

ז Tsadhe

<sup>137</sup> You are righteous, LORD,  
and your laws are right.

<sup>138</sup> The statutes you have laid down are righteous;  
they are fully trustworthy.

<sup>139</sup> My zeal wears me out,  
for my enemies ignore your words.

<sup>140</sup> Your promises have been thoroughly tested,  
and your servant loves them.

<sup>141</sup> Though I am lowly and despised,  
I do not forget your precepts.

<sup>142</sup> Your righteousness is everlasting  
and your law is true.

<sup>143</sup> Trouble and distress have come upon me,  
but your commands give me delight.

<sup>144</sup> Your statutes are always righteous;  
give me understanding that I may live.

ח Qoph

<sup>145</sup> I call with all my heart; answer me, LORD,  
and I will obey your decrees.

<sup>146</sup> I call out to you; save me  
and I will keep your statutes.

<sup>147</sup> I rise before dawn and cry for help;  
I have put my hope in your word.

<sup>148</sup> My eyes stay open through the watches of the night,  
that I may meditate on your promises.

<sup>149</sup> Hear my voice in accordance with your love;  
preserve my life, LORD, according to your laws.

<sup>150</sup> Those who devise wicked schemes are near,  
but they are far from your law.

<sup>151</sup> Yet you are near, LORD,  
and all your commands are true.

<sup>152</sup> Long ago I learned from your statutes  
that you established them to last forever.

ט Resh

<sup>153</sup> Look on my suffering and deliver me,  
for I have not forgotten your law.

<sup>154</sup> Defend my cause and redeem me;  
preserve my life according to your promise.

<sup>155</sup> Salvation is far from the wicked,  
for they do not seek out your decrees.

<sup>156</sup> Your compassion, LORD, is great;

preserve my life according to your laws.  
<sup>157</sup> Many are the foes who persecute me,  
but I have not turned from your statutes.  
<sup>158</sup> I look on the faithless with loathing,  
for they do not obey your word.  
<sup>159</sup> See how I love your precepts;  
preserve my life, LORD, in accordance with your love.  
<sup>160</sup> All your words are true;  
all your righteous laws are eternal.

*ψ Sin and Shin*

<sup>161</sup> Rulers persecute me without cause,  
but my heart trembles at your word.  
<sup>162</sup> I rejoice in your promise  
like one who finds great spoil.  
<sup>163</sup> I hate and detest falsehood  
but I love your law.  
<sup>164</sup> Seven times a day I praise you  
for your righteous laws.  
<sup>165</sup> Great peace have those who love your law,  
and nothing can make them stumble.  
<sup>166</sup> I wait for your salvation, LORD,  
and I follow your commands.  
<sup>167</sup> I obey your statutes,  
for I love them greatly.  
<sup>168</sup> I obey your precepts and your statutes,  
for all my ways are known to you.

*η Taw*

<sup>169</sup> May my cry come before you, LORD;  
give me understanding according to your word.  
<sup>170</sup> May my supplication come before you;  
deliver me according to your promise.  
<sup>171</sup> May my lips overflow with praise,  
for you teach me your decrees.  
<sup>172</sup> May my tongue sing of your word,  
for all your commands are righteous.  
<sup>173</sup> May your hand be ready to help me,  
for I have chosen your precepts.  
<sup>174</sup> I long for your salvation, LORD,  
and your law gives me delight.  
<sup>175</sup> Let me live that I may praise you,  
and may your laws sustain me.  
<sup>176</sup> I have strayed like a lost sheep.  
Seek your servant,  
for I have not forgotten your commands.

This is an alphabetical Psalm. It is composed of 22 stanzas of 8 verses each. Each stanza is headed by different letter from the alphabet and each verse of each stanza begins with this letter.

In the Psalm the writer is magnifying the Word of God. He uses nine synonyms about the Bible: (1) law (2) testimony, (3) judgments, (4) statutes, (5) words, (6) precepts, (7) commandments, (8) promises, and (9) way. The first eight are used over 20 times each. The ninth is used four times.

### The Way It Was Used by God's People

This was a Psalm of praise and thanksgiving for the Word of God. It is significant that this is the longest of all the psalms and is the longest chapter in the Bible. How appropriate this is that the foundation of all we believe controls the longest chapter of all!

The Christian will become more appreciative of the Bible if he will study carefully this Psalm. First, go through the Psalm finding all the things the Bible will do for the Christian. Second, go through the Psalm listing all the things the Christian is supposed to do with his Bible. Third, explore the different things the Bible is like; for example, it is like a lamp unto the feet and light unto the path.

Theme: God's word is true and wonderful. Stay true to God and his word no matter how bad the world becomes. Obedience to God's laws is the only way to achieve real happiness.

Author: Anonymous, some suggest Ezra the priest

### PSALM 119:1

This is both the longest psalm and the longest chapter in the Bible. It may have been written by Ezra after the Temple was rebuilt (Ezra 6:14, 15) as a repetitive meditation on the beauty of God's Word and how it helps us stay pure and grow in faith. Psalm 119 has 22 carefully constructed sections, each corresponding to a different letter in the Hebrew alphabet and each verse beginning with the letter of its section. Almost every verse mentions God's Word. Such repetition was common in the Hebrew culture. People did not have personal copies of the Scriptures to read as we do, so God's

people memorized his Word and passed it along orally. The structure of this psalm allowed for easy memorization. Remember, God's Word, the Bible, is the only sure guide for living a pure life.

#### PSALM 119:9

We are drowning in a sea of impurity. Everywhere we look we find temptation to lead impure lives. The psalmist asked a question that troubles us all: How do we stay pure in a filthy environment? We cannot do this on our own but must have counsel and strength more dynamic than the tempting influences around us. Where can we find that strength and wisdom? By reading God's Word and doing what it says.

#### PSALM 119:11

Hiding (keeping) God's Word in our heart is a deterrent to sin. This alone should inspire us to memorize Scripture. But memorization alone will not keep us from sin; we must also put God's Word to work in our life, making it a vital guide for everything we do.

#### PSALM 119:12-24

Most of us chafe under rules, for we think they restrict us from doing what we want. At first glance, then, it may seem strange to hear the psalmist talk of rejoicing in following God's laws as much as in having great riches. But God's laws were given to free us to be all he wants us to be. They restrict us from doing what might cripple us and keep us from being our best. God's guidelines help us follow his path and avoid paths that lead to destruction.

#### PSALM 119:19

The psalmist said that he is a "foreigner here on earth," and so he needed guidance. Almost any long trip requires a map or guide. As we travel through life, the Bible should be our road map, pointing out safe routes, obstacles to avoid, and our final destination. We must recognize ourselves as pilgrims, travelers here on earth who need to study God's map to learn the way. If we ignore the map, we will wander aimlessly through life and risk missing our real destination.

#### PSALM 119:27, 28

Our lives are cluttered with rule books, but the authors never come with us to help us follow the rules. But God does. That is the uniqueness of our Bible. God not only provides the rules and guidelines but comes with us personally each day to strengthen us so that we can live according to those rules. All we must do is invite him and respond to his direction.


#### PSALM 119:36

In today's world, people most often covet financial gain. Money represents power, influence, and success. For many people, money is a god. They think about little else. True, money can buy certain comforts and offer some security. But far more valuable than wealth is obedience to God because it is a heavenly treasure rather than an earthly one (Luke 12:33). We should do what God wants, regardless of the financial implications. Make the psalmist's prayer your own, asking God to turn your heart toward his statutes and not toward making money; it's in your own best interest in the long run.

#### PSALM 119:44-46

The psalmist talks about keeping the laws and yet being free. Contrary to what we often expect, obeying God's laws does not inhibit or restrain us. Instead, it frees us to be what God designed us to be. By seeking God's salvation and forgiveness, we have freedom from sin and the resulting oppressive guilt. By living God's way, we have freedom to fulfill God's plan for our life.

#### PSALM 119:97-104

God's Word makes us wise wiser than our enemies and wiser than any teachers who ignore it. True wisdom goes beyond amassing knowledge; it is *applying* knowledge in a life-changing way. Intelligent or experienced people are not necessarily wise. Wisdom comes from allowing God's teachings to guide us.

#### PSALM 119:105

To walk safely in the woods at night we need a light so we don't trip over tree roots or fall into holes. In this life, we walk through a dark forest of evil. But the Bible can be our light to show us the way ahead so we won't stumble as we walk. It reveals the entangling roots of false values and philosophies. Study the Bible so you will be able to see your way clear enough to stay on the right path.

#### PSALM 119:113

Undecided people cannot make up their minds between good and evil. But when it comes to obeying God, there is no middle ground; you must take a stand. Either you are obeying him or you are not. Either you are doing what he wants or you are undecided. Choose to obey God, and say with the psalmist, "I love your law."

#### PSALM 119:125

The psalmist asked God for discernment. Faith comes alive when we apply Scripture to our daily tasks and concerns. We need discernment so we can understand, and we need the desire to apply Scripture where we need help. The Bible is like medicine: It

goes to work only when we apply it to the affected areas. As you read the Bible, be alert for lessons, commands, or examples that you can put into practice.

#### PSALM 119:160

One of God's characteristics is truthfulness. He embodies perfect truth; therefore, his Word cannot lie. It is true and dependable for guidance and help (see John 17:14-17). The Bible is completely true and trustworthy.

#### PSALM 119:165

Modern society longs for peace of mind. Here is clear-cut instruction on how to attain this: If we love God and obey his laws, we will have "great peace." Trust in God, who alone stands above the pressures of daily life and gives us full assurance.