

“THE WONDERFUL WORD IN A DIFFICULT WORLD”
PSALM 119:17-32 (STANZAS 3-4)

Because God counsels us through His Word, let us cling to His Word

3. Gimel: Living as a sojourner in a hostile world (vv. 17-24). In this third stanza, the psalmist reveals that he is living under difficulty and distress that will run throughout the rest of the psalm. First, verses 17-20 show us that delighting in God’s Word gives us the discernment we need as we face the difficulties of this world (v. 18). Then, verses 21-24 teach us that in the midst of difficulties God’s Word not only comforts where we are but counsels us in how we need to move forward (v. 24). As we look to live out this passage, like the psalmist, may we remember that we are sojourners on this earth but servants of the King.

4. Daleth: Clinging to the Word in a hard world (vv. 25-32). In this fourth stanza, the difficulties facing the psalmist are now distressing his soul but not his commitment to the Scriptures. In verses 25-28, in the pains of sorrow only praying the promises of God can strengthen the soul (v. 25, 28). Even in sorrow, the psalmist is not hindered from meditating on the wonderful Word (v. 27). In verses 29-32, we see the psalmist turn from praying the Word to pursuing the Word by choosing (v. 30), clinging (v. 31), and running after the Word (v. 32). As we seek to live out this passage, Like the psalmist, as sorrow and struggle cling to us (v. 25), let us cling to the Word (v. 31).

APPLYING THE WORD

As sojourners, we need deliverance and discernment (vv. 17-20)

- Amid difficulty, how has the wonder of God’s Word strengthen your soul (vv. 17-18)?
- How does remembering that we are sojourners shape how you view your week (v. 19)?

As sojourners, God’s Word is our comfort and counselor (vv. 21-24)

- Like the psalmist, what are the implications of viewing the Scriptures as our counselors (v. 24)?

In sorrow, praying the promises of God is our hope (vv. 25-28)

- When you face sorrow and struggle, what Scriptures do you continuously pray (v. 25, 28)?
- How does meditating on the wonderful works of God strengthen you amid struggle (v. 27)?

In struggle, pursuing the ways of God is our freedom (vv. 29-32)

- When struggles cling to us (v. 25), in what ways can we cling to the Word more (v. 31)?

WALKING IN THE WORD THIS WEEK

3. Gimel (vv. 17-24)

Prayer	Lord, strengthen me to live as your servant as I sojourn (1 Pet. 2:9-10).
Practice	Make Psalm 119:18 your prayer as you open the Bible each day this week.

4. Daleth (vv. 25-32)

Prayer	Lord, as difficulties cling to me, help me to cling to your Word (2 Cor. 4:16).
Practice	Write out the ways you can cling to the Word when struggle clings to you.