

“LONGING YET DELIGHTING”
PSALM 119:81-96 (STANZAS 11-12)

Because God sustains us by His Word, let us not abandon His life-giving Word

11. Kaph: Longing for God to end the pains of suffering (vv. 81-88). In the eleventh stanza, the psalmist is in the valley of affliction and pleads for God’s deliverance because he is collapsing (v. 81), fading (v. 82), and about to be wiped out (v. 87). First, in the valley of affliction, we learn that praying God’s promises is our only source of comfort (vv. 81-84). Second, in the valley of affliction, as Spurgeon puts it: “God’s help is our hope” (v. 86). As we look to live out this passage, like the psalmist, we need to see prayer as the first place we go, not the last resort we try when we are waiting for God to deliver us from the valley of affliction (1 Peter 3:13-18).

12. Lamedh: Delighting in God’s life-giving Word (vv. 89-96). In the twelfth stanza, having been in the valley of affliction, the psalmist now moves to reflect on the reliability of God’s life-giving Word for all of life. First, verses 89-92 teaches us to delight in God’s Word because just as He sustains all of creation to this day through His Word, God also sustains us by His Word (cf. Psalm 33; Col 1:17). Second, verses 93-96 compares the limits of what is temporal to motivate us to live in the way of what is eternal – God’s Word (vv. 93, 96; 1 Pt 1:24-25). As we look to live out this passage, let us pray for wisdom to number our days so that we can live for what lasts (Psalm 39:4; 90:12).

APPLYING THE WORD

In affliction, longing for the promises of God is our only comfort and hope (vv. 81-84)

- Like the psalmist, what does it look like to have God’s Word as our hope in suffering?
- How does it teach us today to prepare for future suffering as the people of God (v. 81)?

In affliction, turning to prayer is the first place we go, not the last resort we try (vv. 85-88)

- In suffering, why is prayer one of the first things to go and how can we make it the first place we go?
- In affliction, why must we remember that those hostile to us are not our enemies but are victims of the Enemy (v. 85; 2 Timothy 2:24-26)? How does this outlook shape how we view them?

The whole of creation firmly rests on the faithfulness of God’s Word (vv. 89-92)

- How does knowing that God’s Word is eternal and faithful to sustain all of creation (vv. 89-91) shape the heart and the actions of the psalmist in this stanza? How should these truths shape us?

The whole of our lives needs to fully rest on the faithfulness of God’s Word (vv. 93-96)

- How does comparing what is temporal with God’s eternal Word help you treasure it more (v. 96)?

WALKING IN THE WORD THIS WEEK

11. Kaph (vv. 81-88)

Prayer	Lord, let me not abandon your Word, but help anchor me in your Word (Ps 1).
Practice	Using the eleventh stanza (vv. 81-88), write out your own prayer of lament.

12. Lamedh (vv. 89-96)

Prayer	Lord, as your Word stands forever, may I keep it forever (v. 93; 1 Pt 1:24-25).
Practice	Spend time meditating on the twelfth stanza to rest on God’s reliable Word.
