

“LEARNING TO LOVE GOD’S WORD”  
PSALM 119:113-128 (STANZAS 15-16)

*Because God saves us by His Word, let us serve Him by studying His Word.*

**15. Samekh: Learning to live in tension (vv. 113-120).** In this fifteenth stanza, the psalmist teaches us how to live in the positive tension of discipleship. The first positive tension that we are to live into is what we love and hate (vv. 113-116). When the psalmist says that he “hates the double-minded” he is not despising unbelievers outside the church but disassociating with those inside it who claim to follow the Lord but do not (1 Kings 18:21; James 1:5-8). The second positive tension that we are to live into is what we love and fear (vv. 117-120). The psalmist teaches us to fear the LORD by working out our salvation (Deuteronomy 10:12-22; Philippians 2:12) and to fear for those who reject the salvation of the LORD (Matthew 25:31-46). As we seek to live out this passage, let us to properly hate (v. 113), love (v. 119), and fear (v. 120), by becoming single-minded disciples centered on the Scriptures.

**16. Ayin: Praying for God’s loving deliverance (vv. 121-128).** In the sixteenth stanza, the psalmist teaches us how to pray the Word in desperate times by focusing on our relationship with God as His “servants” (vv. 122, 124, 125). First, we pray the Word in difficult times by pleading the promises of God (vv. 121-124). It is important to note that even though the psalmist stresses that he has kept the Word (vv. 121, 124), he is not relying on what he has done but on what God promises to do (v. 124). Second, we pray the Word in difficult times out of our love for the Word (v. 127-128). It is important to note that difficulty and affliction have not robbed the psalmist of his love for the Scriptures but have only anchored his resolve to learn them more. As we live out this passage, let us pray the promises of God out of love for the Word as we continue to learn the Scriptures as God’s servants.

APPLYING THE WORD

**Learning to love and hate (vv. 113-116)**

- How does this stanza help us understand and cultivate proper biblical emotions (vv. 113, 120)?
- What is “double-mindedness” and why is it so dangerous to our discipleship (v. 113; James 1:5-8)?

**Learning to love and fear (vv. 117-120)**

- How should the judgment of God on the ungodly cause us to pray and grow in humility (vv. 119-120)?

**Servants who live out the Word (vv. 121-124)**

- How are people tempted to believe that God is here to serve them instead of viewing themselves as His servants? How should the image of “servant” (vv. 122, 124-125) shape the way we live out the Word?

**Servants who love the Word (vv. 125-128)**

- Because of your love for the Word, what “false ways” is God calling you to hate/reject (vv. 127-128)?

WALKING IN THE WORD THIS WEEK

**15. Samekh (vv. 113-120)**

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<b>Prayer</b>	Lord, teach me and shape my heart to love what you love and hate what you hate.
<b>Practice</b>	In what ways is God calling you to be more single-minded as a disciple (v. 113)?

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**16. Ayin (vv. 121-128)**

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<b>Prayer</b>	Lord, as I keep and love your Word in affliction, keep me in your steadfast love.
<b>Practice</b>	Prayerfully ask what “false ways” God is calling you to hate/reject (vv. 127-128).

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