

“CRYING AND CALLING”
PSALM 119:145-160 (STANZAS 19-20)

Because God gives us life through His Word, let us draw near to Him through His Word.

19. Qoph: Crying for God to draw near (vv. 145-152). In the nineteenth stanza, the psalmist shows us how to draw near to God in prayer as God draws near to us through His presence. First, the psalmist draws near to God out of desperate desire and continual discipline (vv. 145-148). He draws near out of desperate desire with his “whole heart” (v. 145) because he is in affliction. He draws near through continual discipline early in the morning and late at night because his hope is not in better circumstances but in the goodness of God’s Word (vv. 147-148). As he draws near to God, he remembers that even though his persecutors are drawing near, God is drawing nearer still (vv. 149-152). As we live out this passage, let us remember that God is nearer than the nearness of our problems.

20. Resh: Calling for God to give life (vv. 153-160). In the twentieth stanza, the psalmist teaches us how to pray and overcome evil in times of difficulty and affliction. First, the psalmist prays for God to “look” (v. 153) on his *affliction* and give him life according to the “promise” (vv. 153-156). To ask God to “look” (v. 153, 158, 159) is not to ask God to give us attention because He is busy, but to respond our affliction because He is merciful (v. 156). Second, even though the psalmist is surrounded by many adversaries (v. 157), he prays for God to “look” (v. 159) on his unswerving *affection* for God’s Word and to give him life according to God’s “steadfast love” (v. 157-160). As we live out this passage, let us not be overcome by evil but let us prayerfully overcome evil with good (Rm 12:21).

APPLYING THE WORD

Near the Lord in prayer (vv.145-148)

- Why are both desire and discipline necessary ingredients for a healthy prayer life (vv. 145, 147-148)?

The Lord near in His presence (vv. 149-152)

- Like the psalmist, how does remembering that God is nearer than the nearness of your problems give you reassurance (vv. 150-151)? How does the nearness of God move you to draw near to Him in prayer?

Praying according to God’s promises (vv. 153-156)

- How does the psalmist teach us to pray according to the promises and character of God in this stanza?

Praying according to God’s character (vv.157-160)

- Like the psalmist, how does knowing that God’s character is greater than our circumstances strengthen you for the difficulties of today and the uncertainties of the future (vv. 156-157)?

WALKING IN THE WORD THIS WEEK

19. Qoph (vv. 145-152)

Prayer	Lord, as trouble draws near me, let me remember you are nearer still (Jm 4:8).
Practice	Set aside disciplined time to pray out of Psalm 119 each day this week (v. 147).

20. Resh (vv. 153-160)

Prayer	Lord, let me not be overcome by evil but overcome evil with good (Rm 12:21).
Practice	Like the psalmist, in what ways can you prayerfully overcome evil with good?
