

## THE MOST PRACTICAL AND WONDERFUL BOOK

### Psalm 119

- **Why don't we read Bible more?**
- We all agree with should read our Bible:
  - We own several bibles for reading.
  - We recommend it be read.
  - We get upset when removed from public arena and discourse
  - We agree we read it far too seldom.

Truths that have motivated me to read the Bible faithfully.

**Most Practical Self-Help Book, 119:24 Your testimonies . . . are my counselors.**

**FLASH LIGHT. 119:105 lamp to my feet and light to my path**

- People want help with the issues of life.
  - People are willing to pay more & do more than ever to get help.
- We see little practical "good" in Good Book.
  - Good for morality, but not money, marriage, job
  - Good for future, but not here & now
  - Good for good feeling, but not real change
- Bible is the most practical information we have.
  - What is be the most practical of all info?
    - Info by which judge all other information.
    - e.g. Master Key
  - How do you determine something is good or bad? *The Secret* by Rhonda Byrne (6 mil, 2 DVD). On Oprah, L. King Live, Pop spirituality. Universe here to serve each of us. We created it by our amazing mind power. We have the power to create anything we wish, good or bad, by using our Power of Attraction. Younger. I am the greatest power in U. Whatever I choose is right. I deserve all good things)
  - Most practical info for enriching marriage.
  - For ethical issues, like stem cell research, unborn life, environment.
  - Politics. Founding Fathers. Most quoted book 1760 to 1805? 2 U of Houston profs, 15K sources. Other quotes from Montesquieu, Blackstone (Finney) and Locke.
- Jesus is the expert on all our issues
  - People listen to people they think will help them solve the issues of life: Dr. Phil, counselors, lawyer, architect,
  - Dallas Willard: Jesus knows more about your subject than anyone.
  - What if Jesus were the expert on all your issues?
- Bible is diamond mine ready to be mined for practical use
  - What is God saying about me in Judges? (Geo Santayana)
  - About economics?
  - About human relations? (Proverbs)
  - Science based on order, "discover God's universal laws," biblical worldview.
  - Psychology? Own motivations.

- More bible read: women's treatment, science, health, education, prosperity, freedom,
- Bible gives the most important self-help there is
  - Purpose, destiny, organizing life,
  - Hospitalized, job loss, death (memorized promises)
  - Discouraged? (memorized verses)
  - Keep you from sinking into depression? (memorized verses)
- What will help you make right decisions?
  - Not your conscience
  - GLASS, guard vs guide
  - Fill the conscience with Bible truth
- Where do you get quality information about life?
- Cannot learn Bible from sermons.
  - Best bible teachers are written.

**God's Love Letters Delight My Life, 119:24. Your testimonies also are my delight.**  
**LETTER.**

- Joyce's love letters are my delight: Never get old even after 4 decades.
- Why did I not need someone to encourage me to read her letters?
  - Joyce did not need to say much.
  - I wanted to know everything about her
  - Your delight in the person is all the motivation you need to read the mail.  
You've Got Mail!
  - You want to know everything about your delightful.
- God wants us to know everything about Him:
  - how He thinks,
  - what He likes,
  - His history,
  - plans for Himself,
  - plans for me,
- Do you want a relationship or a religion?
  - How well do you want to know God?
  - Reason for all the data in the Bible is, "More we know Jesus, the more we will delight in Him."
  - Corr: The level of your delight determines level of your desire to know Jesus better.
- Agree? "Life is most wonderful when the right person loves you." Romance
  - The right person is the one in whom you most delight.
  - Agree? Jesus is the most delightful of all persons.
  - The more you understand Him, the more you will delight in Him and more your life will be abundant.
- Sum: Why do I read Bible?
  - Most practical Self-Help Book,
  - God's Love Letters Delight My Life.

**Quality of Worship Depends on the Quality of My Information About God. Ps 119:27 make me understand your precepts so I will meditate on your wonders. 97 O how I love your law. It is my meditation all the day.**

- Worship requires thinking.
  - Why cannot Aslon or Aragon worship?
  - Thinking requires something to think about (information).
  - Suppose: Annunciation, shepherds felt good but no information about Messiah, could they worship Jesus? Mary pondered.
  - Are there any prayers for greater worship experience? Cf Col Cycle.
- Misconception: Worship can be divorced from quality thinking.
  - **Ro 12:1 NIV “spiritual” worship = logikos** (rational, reasonable, logical) cf 11:30-31
  - **Ro 12:2-3 all highlighted words refer to analytical thinking requiring information** “**mind**”= nous (reason, understanding), “**test and approve**”= dokimazo (analyze, examine, prove), “**think**”=phroneo (be wise, understand), “**sober judgment**”=sophroneo, **faith**=pistis (convince by argument, concede to evidence.)
  - Quality worship requires Quality thinking. QT requires Quality information.
- Misconception: Bible a book primarily about feeling.
  - 40 Gr words for thinking used 1500 times (in 260 chapters).
  - God cares deeply about what we think.
    - Is 1:18 (reason, debate, argue, prove). God thinks & asks us to think.
    - Created in image of the Great Thinker.
    - What is most important action of us? Mk 12:28-30 “Mind” (thinking) “Heart” (desires, dreams, affections, intelligence, will)
- Thinking is central to worship.
  - Agree? Cannot worship what you do not know.
  - Corr: More you know, what?
- What quality of worship do you want to offer God?
- What is the quality of your information about God? Your family?

**I Need Far More Help Than I Know. Ps 119:9, 11**

- Athlete not know his bad habits until gets coach.
  - We never are where we think we are.
  - We think we see the path.
- We are in danger of serious failure, total collapse.
  - Christianity comes with a guarantee: Mt 7:24-27
  - Areas where not doing what Jesus says, we are doing it wrong.
  - We need correct information.
- We do not see the real world.
  - Lk 16:15 What is highly esteemed by men is detestable in the sight of God.
  - We think like world. Too often comfortable where should be uncomfortable. Ja 4:4
- Your belief system is perfectly designed to get the kind of problems you are getting.
  - Tired of persistent failure, negative attitude, anger, frustrations?
  - Did God create you to live that way?
  - Change always starts with belief system.
  - Belief system requires correct info.
- Some things we have done to ourselves that reading the Bible would change:
  - “Structured hurry” into our routines. Face pace without peace.
  - Tired. Schedule requires more energy than we have to give.
  - Worried, confused, disillusioned, angry, frustrated, dissatisfied.
  - Burdened by debts.
  - Get what we want and find it not as satisfying as expected.
  - We are failing at home and do not know why.
  - Our joys are fleeting and do not have abiding peace.
  - We know just enough about God to be disappointed in Him.
- Agree? God will not force you to think like Him, but He guarantees that you will be unhappy until you do.

**Conclusion**

- **“In 5 yrs you will be the same person you are now, except for the books you read and the people you meet.” Charles Tremendous Jones.**
- 90 Day Immersion.
- **Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your Good Profession in the presence of many witnesses. I Tim 6:12-13.**



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love flows  
like a river

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