

God's Word

Our Guidebook

Psalm 119:97-112

God's Word – Our Guidebook

■ Psalm 119 – a challenging Psalm

- The author is unknown
 - Someone who is experiencing a lot of trouble *vs 107-110*

- A young man? A scribe? A teacher?

How can a young man keep his way pure?

By living according to your word.

*I have hidden your word in my heart
that I might not sin against you. vs 9,11*

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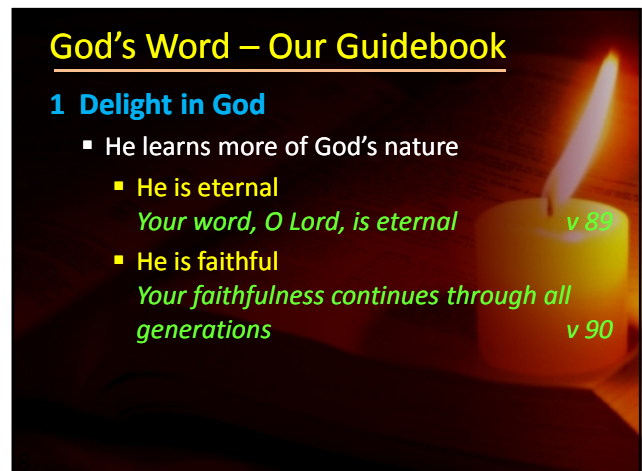
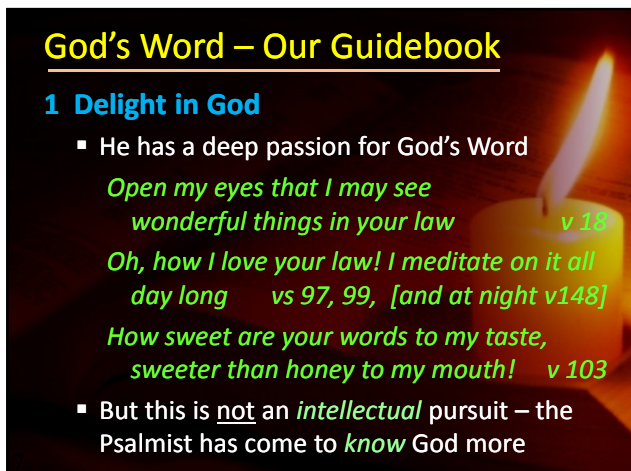
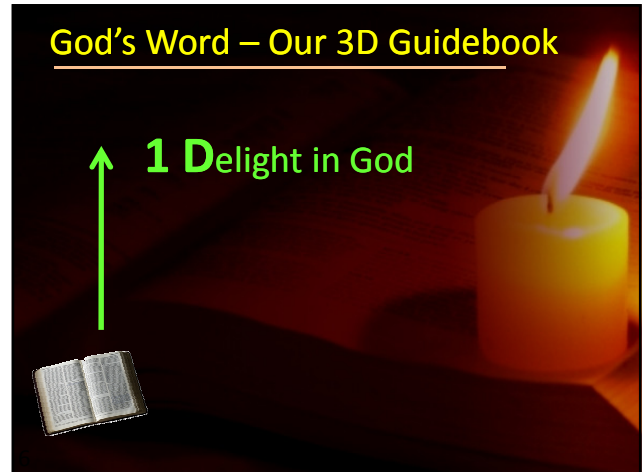
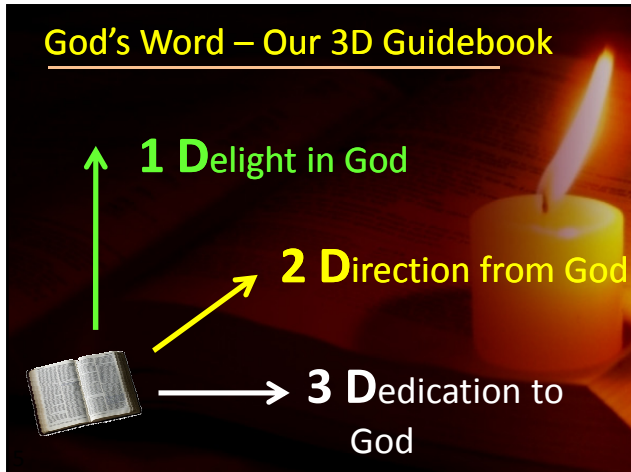
■ Psalm 119 – a challenging Psalm

- 176 verses in 22 sections
 - These relate to the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet – an *acrostic* poem
 - All 8 verses in each section start with the same letter
- This structure was an aid to *memorising* the Psalm!
Hear • Read • Study • Meditate • Memorise

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■ Psalm 119 – a challenging Psalm

- In all but 2 verses there is reference to God's Word: "*your word ...*" etc.
 - It is God's gracious revelation: love-letter!
- 8 Hebrew words are used to describe God's Word –
6 are used in the NIV:
 - Law • Precepts • Commands • Statutes
 - Word(s) • Promises
- For us today – it's all God's revelation OT/NT



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1 Delight in God

- He learns more of God's nature
 - He is good
 - You are good, and what you do is good;
teach me your decrees* v 68
 - He is compassionate
 - Your compassion is great, O Lord* v 156

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1 Delight in God

- He learns more of himself
 - I have strayed like a lost sheep ...* v 176
- And he is in awe of God
 - My flesh trembles in fear of you;
I stand in awe of your laws* v 120
- But he has learned to put his hope in God
 - My soul faints with longing for your
salvation, but I have put my hope
in your word* v 81

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1 Delight in God

- He gains a new perspective on his troubles
 - It was good for me to be afflicted
so that I might learn your decrees* v 71
- He finds freedom in life
 - I run in the path of your commands,
for you have set my heart free* vs 32, 45
- He longs for God's favour
 - Make your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your decrees* v 135

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1 Delight in God

- Inadequate ways to come to God's Word:
 - ✗ With a sense of duty
 - ✗ For the approval of others in the church
 - ✗ Just to gain more Biblical head-knowledge
 - ✗ As a 'study book' for ministry

The more the Psalmist explored God's Word,
the more he loved God.
And the more he loved God,
the more he loved exploring His Word.

God's Word – Our Guidebook

1 Delight in God

The Bible is a Guidebook for humble and hungry people because it leads to a deeper relationship with the GUIDE!

God's Word – Our 3D Guidebook

1 Delight in God

2 Direction from God

God's Word – Our Guidebook

2 Direction from God

- God's Word gives wisdom for living
 - Your commands make me wiser than my enemies, for they are ever with me.*
 - I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes.*
 - I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts vs 98-100*
- That is ... if we want instructions!
 - Men particularly like to go it alone!

God's Word – Our 3D Guidebook

2 Direction from God

- God's Word gives us light
 - Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path*
 - v 105



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2 Direction for Life

- God's Word gives us light
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path v 105
- Lamp – assurance in present situation**
 - God's truth & presence in 'the dark'
- The Lord is my light and salvation – whom shall I fear* Psalm 27:1
- God's insight and values for life
I have more insight ... v 99

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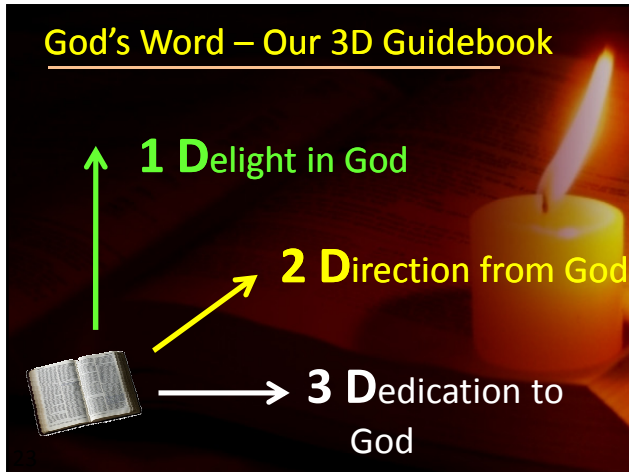
2 Direction for Life

- God's Word gives us light
Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path v 105
- Lamp – guidance for present situation**
- Light – guidance for the way ahead**
 - Specific verses may give direction
 - The 'long view' of God's purposes

God's Word – Our Guidebook

2 Direction from God

The Bible is a Guidebook for humble and hungry people because it leads to a deeper appreciation of God's truth and His ways – general and specific



God's Word – Our Guidebook

3 Dedication to God

- A commitment to **perseverance**

*Your statutes are my heritage for ever;
they are the joy of my heart.
My heart is set on keeping your
decrees to the very end* vs 111-112

*Seven times a day I praise you for your
righteous laws* v 164

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3 Dedication to God

- We may not always recognise the transforming effect of God's Word

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of
this world, but be transformed by the
renewing of your mind.
Then you will be able to test and approve
what God's will is—his good, pleasing and
perfect will.* Romans 12:2

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3 Dedication to God

- A commitment to **obedience**

*I will always **obey** your law,
for ever and ever* v 44

*You are my portion, O Lord; I have
promised to **obey** your words* v 57

*I will hasten and not delay to **obey**
your commands* v 60

*Your statutes are wonderful;
therefore I **obey** them* v 129

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3 Dedication to God

- A commitment to **obedience**
 - **SHOW:** What does this passage *show* me?
 - **KNOW:** Is there something I need to *know*?
 - **GROW:** Is there something to help me *grow*?
 - **GO:** Is there something to *go* and do – **TO OBEY?**

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3 Dedication to God

- Jesus' Teaching
 - Whoever has my commands and **obeys** them, he is the one who loves me* *John 14:21*
 - Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and **puts them into practice** is like a wise man who built his house on the rock* *Matt 7:24*

God's Word – Our Guidebook

3 Dedication to God

The Bible is a Guidebook for humble and hungry people **ONLY** when they want to **OBEY** what God reveals to us

God's Word – Our 3D Guidebook

