

*Trust, Hope, Seek, Love*  
*Psalm 119:42-48*

In **Psalm 119:41-48** the psalmist declared, “Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, even thy salvation, according to thy word. So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word. And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments. So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever. And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts. I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed. And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved. My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes.”

Throughout these verses the young man of God presented five expressions concerning the relationship of his heart with God’s Holy Word. In the closing portion of **verse 42**, he stated, “For I trust in thy word.” In the closing portion of **verse 43**, he stated, “For I have hoped in thy judgments.” In the closing portion of **verse 45**, he stated, “For I seek thy precepts.” In **verse 47** he stated, “And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved.” Finally, in the opening portion of **verse 48**, he stated, “My hand also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved.” With these five statements the young man of God expressed his trust in God’s Word, his hope in God’s Word, his seeking after God’s Word, and his love for God’s Word. Let us then consider these four relationships of heart toward God’s Holy Word.

I. Trust in God’s Word

Three times with three different expressions the psalmist revealed his trust in God’s Holy Word. In **verse 44** he stated, “So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word.” Furthermore, in **verse 66** he stated, “Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments.” Finally, in **verse 161** he stated, “Princes have persecuted me without a cause: but my heart standeth in awe of thy word.” Thus the psalmist set his faith (belief) in God’s Word, set his trust God’s Word, and stood in awe of God’s Word. Yet for what reason was the psalmist moved to this relationship of heart? In **verse 160** he declared, “Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.” He was so moved because of the truth of God’s Word, the faithfulness (enduring) of God’s Word, and the righteousness of God’s Word.

First, the psalmist set his faith (belief) in the absolute truth of God’s Word. In **verse 142** he declared, “Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is the truth.” Again in **verse 151** he declared, “Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth.” Yet again in the opening portion of **verse 160**, he declared, “Thy word is true from the beginning.” Second, the psalmist set his trust in the everlasting faithfulness of God’s Word. In the opening portion of **verse 86**, he declared, “All thy commandments are faithful.” Again in **verse 89** he declared, “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.” Yet again in **verse 152** he declared, “Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.” Yet again in **verse 160** he declared, “Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.”

Third, the psalmist stood in awe at the abundant righteousness of God's Word. In **verse 7** he declared, "I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments." Again in **verse 62** he declared, "At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments." Again in the opening portion of **verse 75**, he declared, "I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right." Again in the opening portion of **verse 128**, he declared, "Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way." Again in **verse 140** he declared, "Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it." Again in the opening portion of **verse 144**, he declared, "The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting." Again in the closing portion of **verse 160** he declared, "And every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever." Again in **verse 164** he declared, "Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments." Finally, in **verse 172** he declared, "My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness."

Even so, with such a heart of faith, trust, and awe toward God's Holy Word, the young man of God wholly depended upon God's Word for all spiritual understanding and direction. In **verse 104** he proclaimed, "Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way." Then in **verse 105** he proclaimed, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Thus in **verse 130** he proclaimed, "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple." So then, what about us? Do we also have such a heart of faith, trust, and awe toward the absolute truth, everlasting faithfulness, and abounding righteousness of God's Holy Word? Do we also trust God's Word for all spiritual understanding in belief and for all spiritual direction in behavior?

## II. Hope in God's Word

Building upon his heart of trust toward God's Word, the psalmist also developed a spirit of hope in God's Word. In **verse 43** he prayed and declared, "And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments." This was a hope generated by the revelation of God's Word concerning God's true, faithful, and righteous plan for his future. No matter what conflicts or afflictions he might face, he possessed hope in God through the truth of God's Word. Again in **verse 49** he prayed, "Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope." Thus in **verse 74** he declared, "They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word." Thus also in **verse 81** he declared, "My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word." Again in **verse 114** he declared, "Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word." Finally, in **verse 147** he declared, "I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word." Even so, in the truth of God's Word, the young man of God found his comfort. In **verse 50** he declared, "This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me;" and in **verse 52** he declared, "I remembered thy judgments of old, O LORD; and have comforted myself." Yeah, in **verse 105** he proclaimed, "Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend [shall spiritually overthrow] them." So then, what about us? Has our trust in God's Word also filled our hearts with hope concerning God's plan and purpose for our future? Does the truth of God's Word fill our hearts with hope, comfort, and peace during out times of affliction?

### III. Seeking after God's Word

Having a heart full of trust and hope toward God's Holy Word, the psalmist developed a desire to seek after a greater and greater relationship with the Lord and to seek after more and more learning from God's Word. In **verse 2** he declared, "Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart." Again in **verse 10** he declares, "With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments." Then in **verse 45** he declared, "And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts." Again in **verse 94** he prayed, "I am thine, save me; for I have sought thy precepts." His seeking after the Lord with his whole heart moved him to seek after the truth of the Lord God's Holy Word. In fact, seeking after a relationship with our Lord and seeking after the truth of His Word cannot be separated from one another. They are an inseparable, spiritual unit. Without the one, we do not have the other. Even so, the psalmist's heart for the Lord his God moved him to develop an intense longing to learn more and more truth and wisdom from God's Word. In **verse 20** he proclaimed, "My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto thy judgments at all times." Again in **verse 40** he proclaimed, "Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness." Finally, in **verse 131** he proclaimed, "I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments." So then, what about us? Do we seek with all our heart after a daily fellowship with the Lord our God? In connection with that, do we seek daily after the truth of God's Word, and that with an intense longing for our Lord and His wisdom?

### IV. Love for God's Word

Now, all of this trust in God's Word, hope through God's Word, and seeking after God's Word abides in the realm of love, that is – love for the Lord our God and love for His Holy Word. In **verses 47-48** he declared, "And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved. My hand also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved." Again in **verse 87** he exclaimed, "O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day." In **verse 113** he declared, "I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love." In **verse 119** he stated, "Thou putttest away all the wicked of the earth like dross: therefore I love thy testimonies." In **verse 127** he declared, "Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold." In **verse 140** he declared, "Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it." In **verse 163** he declared, "I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love." Finally, in **verse 167** he declared, "My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly."

Indeed, the young man of God loved the truth of God's Word so much that he viewed it as more valuable and more sweet than anything else in this world. In **verse 72** he proclaimed, "The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver." Again in **verse 103** he exclaimed, "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!" Even so, he rejoiced in the truth and wisdom of God's Word with great joy. In **verse 14** he declared, "I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches." Again in **verse 54** he declared, "Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage." Yet again in **verse 111** he declared, "Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart." Finally, in **verse 162** he proclaimed, "I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil."

In this realm of love, the truth and wisdom of God's Word had become a genuine delight unto the psalmist's heart, a delight which gave direction for his life and which gave comfort in his affliction. In **verse 16** he declared, "I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word." Then in **verse 24** he declared, "Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors;" and in **verse 35** he prayed, "Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight." Even so, in **verse 77** he prayed, "Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight;" and in **verse 92** he proclaimed, "Unless thy law had been my delights, I should then have perished in mine affliction." Finally, in **verse 174** he declared, "I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight." So then, what about us? Do we love God's Word such that we study it with diligence, such that we meditate therein all day, such that we follow thereafter as our counsellor, such that we find our comfort therein, and such that we rejoice therein with great joy? Do we hold the truth and wisdom of God's Word as more valuable and more sweet than all else in this world?