

TERMS AND THEMES IN PSALM 119

I. This Psalm uses a variety of terms used to show the perfection and manifold uses of the word of God.

1. **Law**, 25x, the revealed will our King, His direction, which binds our conscience.
2. **Way(s)**, 13x, in which we are to walk, showing path of obedience.
3. **Testimonies**, 14x, the witness of God's mind, attested beyond contradiction. The outspokenness of Scripture with its high standards and frank warnings (Kidner).
4. **Commandments**, 22x, given with authority, and (as the word signifies) committed to us as a trust to be kept.
5. **Precepts**, 21x, entrusted, committed to us, which give us instruction concerning our duty. Like an officer who looks into the details of a situation.
6. **Word(s)**, the most general of the terms; two Hebrew words, one 24x that means "sayings" (as in v. 9), the other 19x sometimes implies a promise (as in v. 11), but both are rightly translated *word(s)*. The declaration of God's mind, His oracle, communication. Reminds us of the LOGOS Himself!
7. **Judgments**, 23x (*ordinances* in v. 91), because framed in infinite wisdom, and because by them we must both judge and be judged. Governmental term.
8. **Statutes**, 21x, engraved, inscribed; they are fixed and determined, and of perpetual obligation. Permanently binding.
9. **Truth**, or **faithfulness** (v. 90), 5x, showing the stability and fidelity of all God says. God's revealed will based on eternal truths.
10. **Righteousness**, a few x, because it is all holy, just, and good, and the rule and standard of righteousness; reveals God's method of justification.

Only a few verses do not use one or more of these terms: v. 84, 122, 132. But in these verses, God's character is still in view.

II. Themes of each section

1-8	Aleph	Obedience to God's Word the way of happiness.
9-16	Beth	The purifying effect of delighting in God's Word.
17-24	Gimel	God's Word our delight and desire, even in the face of opposition
25-32	Daleth	God's Word the way of life, strength, deliverance.
33-40	He	Determination to be taught and guided by God's Word.
41-48	Vau	Holy resolution to maintain a faithful testimony before men.
49-56	Zain	God's Word our comfort in our difficulties.
57-64	Cheth	God's Word the priority of our life.
65-72	Teth	God's goodness toward His child, even in afflictions.
73-80	Jod	The comfort of God's Word and the friends it makes for us.
81-88	Caph	God's Word our foundation and hope in the face of persecution.
89-96	Lamed	God's Word everlasting, immutable, and infinitely perfect. Therefore, God's people are safe.
97-104	Mem	God's Word the constant companion of the saints to reveal to them true wisdom.
105-112	Nun	God's Word our guide through all life's dangers.
113-120	Samech	The safety and protection God gives His people in the face of enemies from within and without.
121-128	Ain	The heart of the servant of God is honest, humble, dependent, zealous, teachable, obedient, loyal.
129-136	Pe	Intensity of desire and zeal for God's Word.
137-144	Tzaddi	The righteousness of God's Word.
145-152	Koph	Prayer for life and for deliverance from enemies.
153-160	Resh	Faithfulness to God's Word in the face of affliction.
161-168	Schin	The testimony of personal integrity with regard to God's Word.
169-176	Tau	Earnest plea for God's gracious help.