

Lesson 12: Psalm 119:89-96 - *Lamedh*

Deliverance from Affliction Through God's Word

<i>ESV</i>	<i>NKJV</i>	<i>NASB</i>	<i>NIV</i>	<i>NLT</i>
89 Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens.	89 Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.	89 Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven.	89 Your word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.	89 Your eternal word, O Lord, stands firm in heaven.
89 O Lord, Your word is eternal; it is firmly fixed in heaven.				
<p>Commentary: Your word, O Lord, is eternal. (<i>NIV</i>) In this world, only God, God's Word and people are eternal. All else is temporary and transitory and will pass away. It stands firm in the heavens. That which is "in the heavens" God has graciously brought down to man. Thank You, Lord! The eternal Word of God vs. the "settled science" of this world (that is constantly changing – "We're going to have to rewrite the science / history books.") God's Word is a solid rock to which we can anchor our boat in the storms of life.</p>				
<p>Application: "Thank You, Lord, for Your eternal Word!" Because God's Word is eternal, it has great value and worth. It is worthy of my time and attention. My life is just a vapor. How wonderful to be able to have, to contemplate the eternal Word of God! It is a solid rock and anchor in the midst of my transitoriness, brevity and frailness. Are you investing your life in those things which are eternal (God, His Word, people), or spending your life on those things which are temporal (the trinkets, pleasures and distractions of this world)?</p>				
90 Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.	90 Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides.	90 Your faithfulness continues throughout all generations; You established the earth, and it stands.	90 Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures.	90 Your faithfulness extends to every generation, as enduring as the earth you created.
90 Your faithfulness endures throughout all generations; You established the earth, and it too endures.				

Commentary:

Your faithfulness continues through all generations. (NIV) God’s faithfulness, like His Word (vs. 89), endures forever.

God’s eternal Word testifies to His eternal faithfulness. Everything about God is eternal. The brevity and frailty of our lives stands in stark contrast to the eternity of God and His Word.

“...from generation to generation the faithfulness of God is immutable, which faithfulness has found expression in His Word. We feel impelled to introduce the Word because the word ‘faithfulness’ apparently contains a hidden reference to it; otherwise there would be no synonym for the Word in the verse.” (Leupold, *Exposition*, p. 842)

God’s faithfulness contrasts with our own unfaithfulness and fickleness.

God’s Word is eternal; God’s faithfulness is eternal. The Word reflects His character and nature.

Application:

“Thank You, Lord, for Your faithfulness to me which is in marked contrast to my unfaithfulness to You. Please deliver me from stubbornness, rebellion, unfaithfulness and disloyalty; disobedience and forgetfulness (of what You have said and done). I have ‘leaky brains’ (E. Garcia).”

Psalms 78:8 – “They would not be like their forefathers — a stubborn and rebellious generation, whose hearts were not loyal to God, whose spirits were not faithful to him.”

91 By your appointment they stand this day, for all things are your servants.	91 They continue this day according to Your ordinances, For all are Your servants.	91 They stand this day according to Your ordinances, For all things are Your servants.	91 Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve you.	91 Your regulations remain true to this day, for everything serves your plans.
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91 In accordance with Your ordinances, Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve You.

Commentary:

By your appointment they stand this day. God’s Word is just as true and relevant today as it was when it was written.

For all things serve you. A simple but powerful statement of faith in the sovereignty of God. Every situation and circumstance of life serves the Lord’s purpose. “...they continually obey His beck and call.” (Leupold, *Exposition*, p. 843)

Application:

“By Your grace and mercy, may I serve You as I ought.”

“Lord, grant such faith to me that I might trust and believe that all things, all circumstances, are under your control.” (Romans 8:28)

92 If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.	92 Unless Your law had been my delight, I would then have perished in my affliction.	92 If Your law had not been my delight, Then I would have perished in my affliction.	92 If your law had not been my delight, I would have perished in my affliction.	92 If your instructions hadn’t sustained me with joy, I would have died in my misery.
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92 If Your law had not been my delight, I would have perished (died) in my affliction (misery).

Commentary: God’s Word gives us spiritual life and vitality.

Application:

In times of affliction we need to turn to God’s Word for comfort and guidance. God’s Word preserves and protects us.

“Please cause me to delight in Your law rather than in the things of this world (pleasures, possessions, pastimes, distractions), rather than in the indulgence of the evil desires of my sinful nature.”

“Thank You for the guidance, wisdom, restoration, protection, healing, spiritual health and life that Your Word provides.”

93 I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have given me life.	93 I will never forget Your precepts, For by them You have given me life.	93 I will never forget Your precepts, For by them You have revived me.	93 I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have preserved my life.	93 I will never forget your commandments, for by them you give me life.
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93 I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life (revived me).

Commentary:

I will never forget your precepts, for by them you have preserved my life. (NIV) Gratitude moved him to devotion and obedience.

“The psalmist praises the immutability of God’s Word which has upheld him ...he can and will never forget God’s precepts, for by them He has often revived him and given him a fresh lease on life.” (Leupold, *Exposition*, p. 842-43)

For by them Thou hast revived me (NASB). Spiritual revival comes through and from God’s Word.

Application: “I need spiritual revival; please revive me. Grant me Your life.”

94 I am yours; save me, for I have sought your precepts.	94 I am Yours, save me; For I have sought Your precepts.	94 I am Yours, save me; For I have sought Your precepts.	94 Save me, for I am yours; I have sought out your precepts.	94 I am yours; rescue me! For I have worked hard at obeying your commandments.
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94 I am Yours; please save me, for I have sought Your precepts.

Commentary:

Save me, for I am yours; I have sought out your precepts. (NIV) Prayer based on his relationship to the Lord and obedience to His Word.

His complete devotion to the Lord manifested in devotion to His Word.

“He motivates his anxious plea by claiming to be God’s own and by indicating that he has had a tremendous respect for the Lord’s precepts. He knows that those that love the Lord so much that they regard His precepts earnestly are, in turn, also loved by God and safeguarded in the evil day.” (Leupold, *Exposition*, p. 843)

Application: Wholeheartedly giving myself to the Lord. Recognizing that I belong to Him. Deliverance comes through His Word.				
95 The wicked lie in wait to destroy me, but I consider your testimonies.	95 The wicked wait for me to destroy me, But I will consider Your testimonies.	95 The wicked wait for me to destroy me; I shall diligently consider Your testimonies.	95 The wicked are waiting to destroy me, but I will ponder your statutes.	95 Though the wicked hide along the way to kill me, I will quietly keep my mind on your laws.
95 The wicked lie in wait to ambush and kill me, but I diligently ponder Your testimonies.				
<p>Commentary: The wicked are waiting to destroy me, but I will ponder your statutes. (NIV) In the face of this threat he turned to the Word for comfort and guidance. “...though the adherence to the Lord’s testimonies involves him in danger, he will not fail to consider diligently the testimonies of the Lord.” (Leupold, <i>Exposition</i>, p. 843)</p>				
Application: It’s a matter of focus. “Please help me to focus on You and Your Word rather than the evil activities of the people of this world.”				
96 I have seen a limit to all perfection, but your commandment is exceedingly broad.	96 I have seen the consummation of all perfection, But Your commandment is exceedingly broad.	96 I have seen a limit to all perfection; Your commandment is exceedingly broad.	96 To all perfection I see a limit; but your commands are boundless.	96 Even perfection has its limits, but your commands have no limit.
97 I see a limit to all perfection, but Your commands have no limits.				
<p>Commentary: To all perfection I see a limit. (NIV) Few things in this life approach “perfection” or completeness, but God’s Word is perfect and complete. This life is a perfectionist’s nightmare! Nothing in this world is perfect due to sin, but God’s Word is perfect. “All things that are apart from the Word, no matter how excellent or nearly perfect they may be, are temporal and ephemeral. The contrast to that thought is not expressed but implied... that the Word of the Lord endures forever.” (Leupold, <i>Exposition</i>, p. 843) But your commands are boundless. (NIV) “...the scope of this divine Word is simply without parallel as far as other earthly things and values are concerned... ‘God’s commandment is unlimited in extent and value.’” (Leupold, <i>Exposition</i>, p. 843) “The meaning is this: all earthly things are limited but His Word is infinite.” (Ryrie Study Bible footnote on Psalm 119:96, p. 915) “i.e. [God’s Word is] an inexhaustible source of counsel for life.” (NIV Study Bible, footnote on Psalm 119:96, p. 918)</p>				

Application: Avoid the danger of perfectionism—expending a lot of time and energy trying to get it “just exactly right.” The 80/20 principle (20% effort produces 80% result. It takes another 80% of effort to complete the remaining 20%).

Lamedh

89 O Lord, Your word is eternal; it is firmly fixed in heaven.

90 Your faithfulness endures throughout all generations; You established the earth, and it too endures.

91 In accordance with Your ordinances, Your laws endure to this day, for all things serve You.

92 If Your law had not been my delight, I would have perished (died) in my affliction (misery).

93 I will never forget Your precepts, for by them You have given me life (revived me).

94 I am Yours; please save me, for I have sought Your precepts.

95 The wicked lie in wait to ambush and kill me, but I diligently ponder Your testimonies.

97 I see a limit to all perfection, but Your commands have no limits.