

Lesson 7: Psalm 119:49-56 – Zayin

Comfort from God's Word in Suffering

ESV	NKJV	NASB	NIV	NLT
49 Remember your word to your servant, in which you have made me hope.	49 Remember the word to Your servant, Upon which You have caused me to hope.	49 Remember the word to Your servant, In which You have made me hope.	49 Remember your word to your servant, for you have given me hope.	49 Remember your promise to me; it is my only hope
49 Remember Your word (promise) to me, Your servant, in which You have caused me to hope.				
<p>Commentary:</p> <p>Remember your word to your servant. Remember and take action on behalf—fulfill Your promises. God cannot and does not forget anything (except our sins). He remembers, He keeps His word (promises) to us. He is absolutely faithful and true to His Word! He never forgets His promises and always keeps them.</p> <p>in which you have made me hope. The work of the Holy Spirit in giving us understanding, faith and hope in God and His Word. God's faithfulness to us in the past gives us hope for the present and the future.</p> <p>"Because Thy Word kindled hope in my heart, let me not be disappointed in this hope... the prayer is for the fulfilment of all the things that God promises His own." (<i>Leupold, Exposition, p. 834</i>).</p> <p>God's Word, God's promises give us hope. When we look to ourselves, when we look to the world or to others, we have no hope. Our hope must be in God and His Word alone.</p>				
<p>Application:</p> <p>"Thank You, Lord, that You are always faithful to keep Your promises to me. Thank You that my hope in You and Your Word is never misplaced. You and Your Word are my only real hope. Thank You for giving me hope in You and Your Word."</p> <p>Oh, that I remembered and kept my word and promises to God as faithfully as He keeps His!</p>				
50 This is my comfort in my affliction, that your promise gives me life.	50 This is my comfort in my affliction, For Your word has given me life.	50 This is my comfort in my affliction, That Your word has revived me.	50 My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life.	50 Your promise revives me; it comforts me in all my troubles.
50 This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your promise (word) gives me life (revives me).				

Commentary:

This is my comfort in my affliction. God’s Word gives us comfort and guidance when we are suffering.

Being a child of God, even a righteous one, does not exempt us from suffering. In the midst of his suffering, the writer found comfort in God's Word. Sometimes God's Word is all you have to hold on to, all the comfort you can count on in the midst of painful circumstances.

your promise gives me life. As food gives physical life and vitality, so God’s Word gives spiritual life and vitality.

Matthew 4:4 – But he answered, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

“Thy Word revived me when affliction and trouble had brought me low. That experience was my chief comfort in the midst of my affliction... the revitalizing of the ebbing strength of body and soul.” (Leupold, *Exposition*, p. 834)

Application:

“Thank You for the comfort and spiritual vitality (nourishment, revival) that I derive from the study and contemplation of Your Word.”

51 The insolent utterly deride me, but I do not turn away from your law.	51 The proud have me in great derision, Yet I do not turn aside from Your law.	51 The arrogant utterly deride me, Yet I do not turn aside from Your law.	51 The arrogant mock me without restraint, but I do not turn from your law.	51 The proud hold me in utter contempt, but I do not turn away from your instructions.
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51 The proud (arrogant) mock me and hold me in utter contempt, but I do not turn away from Your law.

Commentary:

The insolent utterly deride me. This appears to be happening more and more in our culture and society – open persecution of believers.

“...derision apparently because of his faithful adherence to God's Word.” (Leupold, *Exposition*, p. 834)

but I do not turn away from your law. Mark 8:38 – “For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Derision did not discourage him or distract him from the Word. He did not give in or bow down to the pressure of the crowd. When we are young or immature, we want the approval of our peers. We need to be influenced by the Word of God more than by the approval of our peers; God’s approval rather than man’s approval.

Application:

“Lord, when persecution comes my way, when I am ridiculed and slandered for my faith in You, please help me to not turn away from (be ashamed of) You or Your Word.”

52 When I think of your rules from of old, I take comfort, O Lord.	52 I remembered Your judgments of old, O Lord, And have comforted myself.	52 I have remembered Your ordinances from of old, O Lord, And comfort myself.	52 I remember your ancient laws, O Lord, and I find comfort in them.	52 I meditate on your age-old regulations; O Lord, they comfort me.
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52 When I meditate on (remember, think about, contemplate) Your ancient laws, I am comforted, O Lord.

Commentary:

When I think of your rules from of old. Meditating on, contemplating God’s Word.

“God’s law is not fickle, but it is grounded firmly in his unchanging moral character.” *(NIV Study Bible, note on Psalm 119:52, p. 916)*

I take comfort, O Lord. Compare vs. 50 – “This is my comfort in my affliction.”

“It has been long known and tested, and those that have built their confidence on it have seen its absolute trustworthiness.” *(Leupold, Exposition, p. 834)*

Application: “Thank You, Lord, for the comfort I derive from my contemplation of Your Word.”

<p>53 Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked, who forsake your law.</p>	<p>53 Indignation has taken hold of me Because of the wicked, who forsake Your law.</p>	<p>53 Burning indignation has seized me because of the wicked, Who forsake Your law.</p>	<p>53 Indignation grips me because of the wicked, who have forsaken your law.</p>	<p>53 I become furious with the wicked, because they reject your instructions.</p>
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53 Burning indignation seizes me, and I become furious because of the wicked, who forsake (reject) Your law.

Commentary:

Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked. Genuine righteous indignation.

“Zeal for Go’’s law... awakens righteous anger against those who reject it...and it brings abhorrence of all that is contrary to it...; but it draws together those who honor it.” *(NIV Study Bible, note on Psalm 119:53, p. 917)*

Matthew 7:1-5

1 “Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. 3 Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? 4 Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when there is the log in your own eye? 5 You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.”

who forsake your law. “If God is so gracious as to give so blessed a law, then it is the utmost irreverence for any man to turn away from it.” *(Leupold, Exposition, p. 835)*

Application:

“Please help me to be indignant for the right reasons. And when I am indignant toward others because of their sins, help me to be even more indignant toward myself because of my own sins. Please help me to be truly discerning of what is right and what is wrong in the behavior of others.”

54 Your statutes have been my songs in the house of my sojourning.	54 Your statutes have been my songs In the house of my pilgrimage.	54 Your statutes are my songs In the house of my pilgrimage.	54 Your decrees are the theme of my song wherever I lodge.	54 Your decrees have been the theme of my songs wherever I have lived.
54 Your statutes are the theme of my songs wherever I live.				
<p>Commentary: Your statutes have been my songs. Celebrating the Word of God. Actually singing God’s Word and singing of God’s Word. "God's Word deserves high praise." (<i>Leupold, Exposition, p. 835</i>) in the house of my sojourning. We need to remember that our stay on planet earth is temporary and brief. “This world is not my home, I’m just a passin’ through.” “...during the course of this earthly and temporary existence.” (<i>Leupold, Exposition, p. 835</i>)</p>				
Application: “Thank You for the privilege of having and being able to celebrate Your Word.”				
55 I remember your name in the night, O Lord, and keep your law.	55 I remember Your name in the night, O Lord, And I keep Your law.	55 O Lord, I remember Your name in the night, And keep Your law.	55 In the night I remember your name, O Lord, and I will keep your law.	55 I reflect at night on who you are, O Lord; therefore, I obey your instructions.
55 I remember Your name and reflect on who You are in the night, O Lord, and I keep Your law.				
<p>Commentary: I remember your name in the night, O Lord. The name of God is representative of who He is. The contemplation of the character of God, who He is. "...even in the silence of the night his thoughts should have busied themselves with the law of God." (<i>Leupold, Exposition, p. 835</i>). and keep your law. The contemplation of God’s character and works results in obedience to God’s Word. Tiredness, cover of darkness, being alone were not excuses to engage in sin. A renewed commitment early in the day to obey the Word.</p>				
<p>Application: When you can’t sleep, what better way to spend your time than contemplating and celebrating the character and works of God as seen in the Word of God. “Lord, may my contemplation of You and Your Word consistently result in my obedience to Your Word.”</p>				

56 This blessing has fallen to me, that I have kept your precepts.	56 This has become mine, Because I kept Your precepts.	56 This has become mine, That I observe Your precepts.	56 This has been my practice: I obey your precepts.	56 This is how I spend my life: obeying your commandments.
56 This is my practice (and I am blessed because of it): I obey Your precepts.				
<p>Commentary: This blessing has fallen to me. It is a blessing to obey the Word of God. This has been my practice. (NIV) His habitual, consistent lifestyle was one of obedience to God’s Word. “These precepts were not burdensome or hard but rather a blessing that has fallen to his lot.” (Leupold, <i>Exposition</i>, p. 835)</p>				
<p>Application: “Dear Lord, please help me to recognize the blessings I have because of Your faithfulness to me. May I be motivated to obey You because of Your blessing on my life.”</p>				
<p>Zayin 49 Remember Your word (promise) to me, Your servant, in which You have caused me to hope. 50 This is my comfort in my affliction, that Your promise (word) gives me life (revives me). 51 The proud (arrogant) mock me and hold me in utter contempt, but I do not turn away from Your law. 52 When I meditate on (remember, think about, contemplate) Your ancient laws, I am comforted, O Lord. 53 Burning indignation seizes me, and I become furious because of the wicked, who forsake (reject) Your law. 54 Your statutes are the theme of my songs wherever I live. 55 I remember Your name and reflect on who You are in the night, O Lord, and I keep Your law. 56 This is my practice (and I am blessed because of it): I obey Your precepts.</p>				