

## ESTABLISH YOUR WORD TO YOUR SERVANT

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### Psalm 119:33-40 (נ HE)

Teach me, O Lord, the way of Your statutes,  
and I shall keep it to the end.

Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law;  
Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

Make me walk in the path of Your commandments,  
For I delight in it.

Incline my heart to Your testimonies,  
and not to covetousness.

Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things,  
And revive me in Your way.

Establish Your word to Your servant,  
Who is devoted to fearing You.

Turn away my reproach which I dread,  
For Your judgments are good.

Behold, I long for Your precepts;  
Revive me in Your righteousness.

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**Psalm 119** is divided into 22 sections. The first section with each of its lines starts with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Then the following sections and all of their lines begin with the next letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Interestingly, the first two letters of the Hebrew alphabet, of which are then the first two letters in each of the starting sentences of the first two sections, are "aleph" and then "bet". What does that sound like putting those two words together? Aleph-bet. While the poetic beauty of or one's appreciation for the acrostic nature of **Psalm 119** is lost on the average reader, as their Bibles are translated into other languages, like with us and our English translations, the theme of **Psalm 119** is really what is intended to be most noticed and considered and appreciated. The more I meditated on and read this passage of Scripture over and over, what ends up popping out as being what encompasses it all and really ties in with the fullness of the gospel of Christ, is the Psalmist's prayer, "Establish Your word to Your servant." May it become us, working in us, unifying us to have the same spirit and purpose, mindset and heart, being like Christ Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith until we are taken home to God's glory.

That theme then, of really all of **Psalm 119**, encapsulates the expressing the love of, respect of, the honor of, and the reverance

for the Word of God. With God's precepts, commandments, testimonies, and statutes, they all speak of God's Word, of His intended desire, His plan and purpose, for how His people should conduct themselves and live their lives in a way that is pleasing to God. It is then according to what has been the spoken Word of God, that is recorded for us in the Holy Scriptures, what we refer to as our Bibles, or Holy Bibles. For our passage of Scripture in Psalm 119:33-40, it seems appropriate that it starts each line with the letter h, spelled out as He and pronounced hay.

Starting with H-e, Him, being Jesus, we consider first and foremost anytime we do read the Word of God. For Jesus tells us, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (John 10:10) And as Christ Jesus stated to the Apostle John, that is recorded for us in what is called the Revelation or Apocalypse of Jesus Christ, He declared "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." (Revelation 1:8) Jesus stating that He is the "Alpha and Omega" is what He is recorded to have said according to the Greek language. If His Words at that time would have been written in the Hebrew He would have said, "I am the Aleph and the Tav (or Ta-o)". It can be said then, if one were to consider the "Tao" of Taoism, the ancient religion and philosophy of the Chinese, guess what? Jesus is the Aleph and the Ta-o, the beginning and the end (and all that is in between). I said that to reiterate what God's Word clearly tells us. For an example, the disciples were being questioned about the commotion that had been stirred up in Jerusalem after the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, and then the healing of a man who had been lame. The Apostle Peter said to the High Priest and all the people who had gathered around, "let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' [here it is] Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:10-12) No other philosophy, no other religion, but Christ Jesus, whom God sent to die on a cross for our sins, provides for us the Way unto life everlasting and a life to the fullest. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3:16-17)

There are three books of the Bible that begin by referring to the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. Genesis starts off, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And

the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. **Then God said**, "Let there be light"; and there was light." (**Genesis 1:1-3**) Then on the sixth day of creation God said, "'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'" We were created in the very image of the character of God, yet we know the rest of the story, don't we. Sin happened.

Praise God for the gospel [good news] of Christ Jesus! According to the Apostle John, he starts his gospel account saying, "In the beginning was the **Word**, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it." (**John 1:1-5**) That word that is translated as "comprehend" in the KJV and the NKJV but is translated as "overcome" or "attained" in other translations. Some may want to say or think, yeah, so what's in a word?" You're on the right track. Hopefully we all get to where the psalmist(s) of **Psalms 119** was, in declaring their love, appreciation, and reverence for THE WORD of GOD. That word "comprehend" or "overcome" or "attained" is the Greek word "katelaben" which is really the act of seizing, firmly taking hold of, or capturing. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (**John 1:14**)

That "seizing" or "grabbing hold of" may remind you of what God told the Israelites in the Old Testament times, according to the Old Covenant, that was referred to as the "law of Moses". God told them through the prophet Moses, "that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days. " (**Deuteronomy 30:20**) Yet, it wasn't Moses' law was it, it was God's spoken Word! Similarly for us, according to the New Testament, or New Covenant that is in Christ Jesus, we are seizing, or taking hold of Jesus, who is the "Alpha and Omega". As the Apostle John tells us, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." (**John 1:12-13**) And then, the "Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (**John 1:14**)

Similarly, we are told in **Ephesians 2:8-10**, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God [that we must take hold of], not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are **His workmanship** [which is another theme in our passage of Scripture for today], created in Christ Jesus for good

works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." We have been given many precious gifts from God. We have the testimony of others, including those who we can read about in the Word of God, and we have the Holy Spirit of God that will guide us into "**all truth**", as Jesus promised, that is, all those who have believed on and received Christ Jesus. **1.** The testimony from others **2.** The testimony from God **3.** The Holy Spirit that "**bears witness with our spirit** that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and **joint heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be **glorified together.**" (**Romans 8:16-17**)

The third book of the Bible that begins similarly to Genesis and the gospel of John is the book of Hebrews. It starts by saying, "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed **heir of all things**, through whom also He made the worlds [aeons]; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image [charakter] of His person, and **upholding all things by the word of His power**, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high." In other words, Jesus upholds all things spoken [Greek word rhemati] by His power [Greek word dynameos]. That is who I am clinging to, how about you?

For our passage of **Scripture in Psalm 119:33-40**, I will substitute the words statutes, commandments, testimonies, and precepts, with God's Word, to lessen the confusion of what those words really mean, as they are ultimately the Word of God. The Psalmist is praying the following, for God to:

1. Teach me, O Lord...according to your Word, and I shall keep it to the end.
2. Give me understanding, from Your Word, I shall observe it with my whole heart.
3. Make me walk in the path of Your Word, For I delight in it.
4. Incline my heart to Your Word, and not to covetousness.
5. Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way. [by the way, as Jesus said, as it is written for us in the Word in **John 14:6**, "**I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**"]
6. Establish Your word to Your servant, who is devoted to fearing You.
7. Turn away my reproach which I dread, for Your Word is good.
8. Behold, I long for Your Word; revive me in Your righteousness.

What the psalmist is aware of and confessing to God and praying is exactly what Jesus told His disciples, "**I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**" (**John 15:5**) As He upholds **all things** by the Word of His power and indeed, the power of His Word! It is therefore how we are guided and upheld by the Holy Spirit, also

referred to as the Spirit of Christ and the Spirit of God. The Apostle Paul tells us in **Romans 8:9**, "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His." How can that be? Jesus said this, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." (**John 14:23**) That ties in perfectly with what the Apostle John tells us in **2 John 1:9**, "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son."

We really cannot take credit for our being saved as it is God doing the saving. It is though up to us in whether we will repent (recognizing a need for change and then heeding to that need that is in Christ Jesus-metaneo). "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." (**2 Peter 3:9**) That repentance is recognizing our need for Jesus to uphold us by the word of His power, by the power of His Word. That goes for the big three that Paul mentioned in **1 Corinthians 1:30**, that He is our Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption. Christ Jesus, through His Word, gives us His wisdom, as we are guided into all truth by the Holy Spirit, Christ makes us right in the perfect ways of God. Through Christ we then are led to live in God's holiness, as we are led from glory to glory (**2 Corinthians 3:18**), to our redemption in Christ Jesus. We can put our trust in God, from the beginning of our faith to when He takes us home to His glory, as He is perfect in all of His Ways (**2 Samuel 22:31**) and His Works (**Deuteronomy 32:4**).

Teach me O Lord Your Truth. Give me understanding, discernment. Make me walk in Your Way. Incline my heart to Your Word. Turn my eyes to You and not to the worthless stuff of this world. May Your Word become me according to your character, O Lord. Remind me of Your Word that says, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (**1 John 1:9**) Then revive me in Your righteousness for Your name's sake and by the abundance of Your grace and mercies. May we all be reminded of the doctrine of Christ, to love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind and to then love others as ourselves, as God loves them.

May we have a true and sincere reverence for your Word and Your ways O Lord. May it be in our hearts to remember that as the Apostle Paul told Timothy, that "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**) May we

all be established in the Word, growing and bearing much fruit for the glory of God. May we all be doing our part, according to God's predestined plan and purpose, "until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (**Ephesians 4:13**) to the glory of God. Praise the Lord!