

Sunday Night Message

October 23, 2016




























Psalms 119:145 – 152 – *Prayer and the Word of God*

Series – The Psalms

Text – Psalm 119:145 – 152

## Introduction

We are continuing our examination of the longest Psalm as well as the longest chapter of the Bible. As we discussed last week, this psalm is a Hebrew acrostic where every eight verses are separated into sections where the first letter of each verse begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. The first eight verses each begin with “Aleph”, the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Verses 9 – 16 all begin with “Beth”; verses 17 – 24 all begin with Gimel; and, so on.

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|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|
|    |    |    |    |    |     |      |    |   |  |
| Yod<br>(Y)  | Tet<br>(T)  | Chet<br>(Ch)  | Zayin<br>(Z)  | Vav<br>(V)  | He<br>(H)  | Dalet<br>(D)  | Gimel<br>(G)  | Bet<br>(B/V)   | Alef<br>(silent)  |
|   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |  |   |
| Ayin<br>(silent)  | Samech<br>(S)   | Nun<br>(N)  | Nun<br>(N)  | Mem<br>(M)  | Mem<br>(M)   | Lamed<br>(L)  | Khaf<br>(Kh)  | Kaf<br>(K/Kh)  |   |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |   |
| Tav<br>(T)  | Shin<br>(Sh/S)  | Resh<br>(R)   | Qof<br>(Q)  | Tsadeh<br>(Ts)  | Tsadeh<br>(Ts)   | Feh<br>(F)  | Peh<br>(P/F)  |  |   |

We do not know the writer of this psalm, though we think it must have been a “high profile” person, perhaps a king or a priest. Nor do we know the historical context. There is no doubt, however, as to the theme of the psalm. 170 out of the 175 verses in this psalm speak directly regarding the Word of God. The writer to this psalm is expressing his love and devotion to the Word of God, and is encouraging us to do the same.

Phillips has said regarding the anonymity of the writer:

Throughout this psalm we are made aware that the singer is in trouble. We would like to know who he was—David, perhaps, or Daniel, or Hezekiah. But since he has remained

anonymous (making this psalm one of the “orphan psalms” of the Hebrew hymn book) the Holy Spirit intends his sufferings to be of universal significance. Any beleaguered saint of God can put his or her name at the head of this psalm and sing it themselves.<sup>1</sup>

### *“KOPH”*

“Kopf” or “Qof” is the nineteenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet and thus begins the nineteenth division of eight verse sections found in this psalm. Again, every verse in this section would begin, reading from right to left in the original Hebrew, with the letter Kopf.

As I considered this portion of the psalm, I saw the subject of prayer emphasized by the psalmist. Prayer is a critical part of the Christian life at all times and seasons, but it is especially important as we go through times of trial and difficulties, and also as we are moving forward, stretching our faith in a new venture for the Lord.

I have been driven to my knees in the past for both of these types of situations, and I am sure that as I continue to grow in the Lord, I will again be pressed into a season of extensive and copious intercession to the Lord.

Recently, we had our revival meetings here at the church, and it has been exciting to see a new energy in many of our people, especially a renewed zeal in the area of prayer.

“The man who can get believers to praying would, under God, usher in the greatest revival that the world has ever known. There is no fault in God. He is able. God "is able to do ... according to the power that worketh in us. " God's problem today is not Communism, nor yet Romanism, nor Liberalism, nor Modernism. God's problem is-dead fundamentalism!” (Leonard Ravenhill)

“Prayer is of transcendent importance. Prayer is the mightiest agent to advance God's work. Praying hearts and hands only can do God's work. Prayer succeeds when all else fails.” (E. M. Bounds)

“We can do nothing without prayer. All things can be done by importunate prayer. It surmounts or removes all obstacles, overcomes every resisting force and gains its ends in the face of invincible hindrances.” (E. M. Bounds)

“Whether we like it or not, asking is the rule of the Kingdom. If you may have everything by asking in His Name, and nothing without asking, I beg you to see how absolutely vital prayer is.” (Charles Spurgeon)

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<sup>1</sup> Phillips, J. (2012). Exploring Psalms 89–150: An Expository Commentary (Vol. 2, Ps 119:81–88). Kregel Publications; WORDsearch Corp.

Illustration (Charles Spurgeon preached to over 10,000,000 people) Five young college students were spending a Sunday in London, so they went to hear the famed C.H. Spurgeon preach. While waiting for the doors to open, the students were greeted by a man who asked, "Gentlemen, let me show you around. Would you like to see the heating plant of this church?" They were not particularly interested, for it was a hot day in July. But they didn't want to offend the stranger, so they consented. The young men were taken down a stairway, a door was quietly opened, and their guide whispered, "This is our heating plant." Surprised, the students saw 700 people bowed in prayer, seeking a blessing on the service that was soon to begin in the auditorium above. Softly closing the door, the gentleman then introduced himself. It was none other than Charles Spurgeon. (Our Daily Bread, April 24.)

## I Pray with Passion

*"I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O LORD: I will keep thy statutes." (Psalm 119:145)*

*"I cried unto thee; save me, and I shall keep thy testimonies." (Psalm 119:146)*

"In prayer, it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart" (John Bunyan).<sup>2</sup>

"The idea that everything would happen exactly as it does regardless of whether we pray or not is a specter that haunts the minds of many who sincerely profess belief in God. It makes prayer psychologically impossible, replacing it with dead ritual at best." (David Brainerd)

*"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:16)*

## II Pray with Persistence

"I live in the spirit of prayer. I pray as I walk about, when I lie down and when I rise up. And the answers are always coming. Thousands and tens of thousands of times have my prayers been answered. When once I am persuaded that a thing is right and for the glory of God, I go on praying for it until the answer comes. George Mueller never gives up!" (George Mueller)

*"I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word." (Psalm 119:147)*

*"Mine eyes prevent the night watches, that I might meditate in thy word." (Psalm 119:148)*

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<sup>2</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (2004). Be exultant (1st ed., p. 136). Colorado Springs, CO: Cook Communications Ministries.

The psalmist persisted in his prayer to God beyond a limited or scheduled prayer time. His prayer request got him out of bed early in the morning, and kept him up late at night.

"Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17 KJV)

*"I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day;"* (2 Timothy 1:3)

A. It may be because of a problem.

Problems have a way of robbing us of sleep at night and preoccupying our thoughts through the day.

*"Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him."* (Acts 12:5)

B. It may be driven by a divine purpose.

God will often move you as an individual, or us as a church, into uncharted waters. He will ask us to go where we have never gone, and do what we have never before done. At these times, especially, we need to be bathed in prayer.

Our church is now entering into those uncharted waters. We want to make sure that we get it right.

It may be time for us to corporately fast and pray.

*"And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting."* (Mark 9:29)

It may be time for us to have some cottage prayer meetings.

It may be time for us to have an all-night prayer meeting.

David said:

*"Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice."*  
(Psalm 55:17)

Jesus prayed early in the morning and also late into the night.

### III Pray for Protection

*"Hear my voice according unto thy lovingkindness: O LORD, quicken me according to thy judgment." (Psalm 119:149)*

*"They draw nigh that follow after mischief: they are far from thy law." (Psalm 119:150)*

"Men of prayer must be men of steel, for they will be assaulted by Satan even before they attempt to assault his kingdom." (Leonard Ravenhill)

"The church that is not jealously protected by mighty intercession and sacrificial labors will before long become the abode of every evil bird and the hiding place for unsuspected corruption. The creeping wilderness will soon take over that church that trusts in its own strength and forgets to watch and pray." (A. W. Tozer)

#### Turn to Nehemiah

Nehemiah was driven to prayer when he heard about the condition of Jerusalem. (Nehemiah 1)

Nehemiah's prayer drove him to action. (Nehemiah 2:1 – 8)

Nehemiah's prayer and action attracted opposition. (Nehemiah 4:1 – 8)

Nehemiah and the people watched while they prayed. (Nehemiah 4:9; 13 - 19)

Prayer is not a substitute for action. Lester Roloff said that the best place to pray for potatoes was at the end of a hoe handle.

### IV Pray with Perception

*"Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments are truth." (Psalm 119:151)*

*"Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever." (Psalm 119:152)*

Pray intelligently, according to the revealed will of God, through the Word of God.

*"Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me." (Isaiah 45:11)*

The only way that you could “command God” is by knowing that the thing that you want to do is according to His will.

## **Conclusion**

We have a lot to pray about here at Jersey Shore Baptist Church. You have a lot to pray about regarding your individual lives and families. Let’s get to praying:

Pray with passion

Pray with persistence

Pray for protection

Pray with perception (pray intelligently – according to the Word of God)