

Psalm 119 is an amazing Psalm. Not only is it the longest Psalm (176 verses!), but it is also the Psalm that deals the most directly with the topic of Scripture. Virtually every verse, in one way or another, refers to God's Word.

David (who is most likely the author) uses a variety of terminology to describe God's Word: **commandments, law, statutes, precepts, ordinances, rules, words, testimonies, etc.** These all refer to the Scriptures as they existed in David's day (essentially the Pentateuch).

Thus, **Psalm 119** is one of the best examples of Scripture speaking about Scripture. It is the Word about the Word.

And in it, we find David interacting with the Word of God in five ways:

1. *Trusting the Word of God.* Time and time again, David expresses his belief that the Scriptures are true (v.151). He believes in them (v.66). He trusts in their **reliability** (v.42). He states: "The sum of your word is truth" (v.160).

This first step is key. If a believer doesn't *really* regard the Word of God as being fully and entirely trustworthy, then none of the other steps below will follow.

2. *Studying the Word of God.* David doesn't just believe the Word, he is a student of the Word. He **learns** it (v.73), he **seeks** it (v.155), he has **memorized** it (v.153), and regularly **meditates** on it.

This step ought to naturally follow the first one. If God's Word really is true, then we ought to commit ourselves to being diligent students of the Word. We need to embrace it with our minds, as well as our hearts.

3. *Using the Word of God.* It's one thing to believe and know the Word. It is another thing to rely on it. To look to it as a guide during the difficulties and challenges of life. To lean on it for encouragement and hope.

David repeatedly affirms that he uses the Word of God as a "counselor" (v.24), to give "strength" (v.28), and to bring "comfort in affliction" (v.50). He states, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (v.105). In short, the Word of God is the very source of life for David (v.156).

This reminds us a very important attribute of God's Word: it is alive. It is powerful and active. When we talk about the attributes of Scripture we must remember that it is more than just a true book. It is also a living book. It is the place where the God of the universe meets us and manifests himself.

4. *Delighting in the Word of God.* What is amazing is that David takes things one step further than we might expect. It's not just that he trusts, studies, and uses the Word of God. He actually has **affection** for it. He has a deep emotional affinity towards it.

He “loves” God’s Word (v.159), he “rejoices” at his Word (v. 162), the Word is “wondrous” (v.18), it is “better than thousands of gold and silver pieces” (v.72), and “**sweeter than honey to my mouth**” (v.103).

I am convinced that this is the missing piece for most believers today. For many, the Bible is viewed almost in a utilitarian fashion—it is a mechanical, sterile tool that Christians are supposed to use. It's like taking your medicine.

In contrast, David has passion, zeal, and excitement for the law and commandments of God. And the reason for this is not hard to find. David loves God’s law not because he is a closet legalist. He loves God’s law *because the law reflects God’s own nature and character. He loves God’s law because he loves God—and who God is and what he is like.*

Any Christian who says they love God but then despises God’s law is living a life of contradiction. Indeed, they are living a life that is the opposite of Psalm 119. To love God is to love his law.

5. *Obeying the Word of God.* Not surprisingly, the prior four characteristics naturally lead to this last one. David repeatedly expresses his desire to actually obey God's law. He wants to follow it, keep it, and fulfill it.

Indeed, Jesus embodies all five of these characteristics. He trusted, studied, used, delighted in, and obeyed God's Word.

In fact, he did all these things even more than the first David.

While David certainly serves as an example of what to do with God's word, Jesus is the ultimate example. One greater than David has come. And he loved God's Word.