



---

**C.O.G.A. LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONFERENCE**

---

TOPIC:

**Psalms 119**

**The Character of  
God's Word**

FACILITATOR

**Bishop Cecil Reid**



CHURCH OF GOD APOSTOLIC, INC.  
755 Old Hwy 601 Mt Airy, NC. 27030  
Telephone (336) 772-2922

**March 13 & 14 - 2026**

# Psalms 119 – The Character of God’s Word

By: Bishop Cecil Reid

This Psalm is known as the longest in the Bible, having 176 verses. There are 22 stanzas, each containing eight versus. The major topic of Psalms 119 is the "**Word of God**," and is mentioned in all but three versus (verse 84, 121, 122).

**The character of God's Word is** revealed by eight (8) synonyms: Laws, Testimonies, Precepts, Statues, Commandments, Judgments or audiences and Word.

**1. THE LAW** ("Torah") [used 25 times] – meaning "**to teach**"-  
**instruction, doctrine** (directives) –(vs.1).

- a. It applied to individuals as well as to a nation
- b. It emphasizes **what God requires of us to become or to reach our spiritual idea.**
- c. **Breaking, misapplying or neglecting** is the equivalent to sinning against God – or breaking with one's covenant relationship
- d. **To teach** ("Yarah" or "Yara"); means to cast, to shoot (as an arrow), to pour, to lay a foundation, erect, establish, to shed (water), to irrigate or give water.
  - It has to do with **shooting arrows, sending rain, or teaching** (putting out words) – by aiming or controlling (Num.21:30, 1 Samuel 20:36; Hosea 10:12)
- e. **Learning and teaching are related – They share the same root word** – (one with a prefix and the other with a suffix) – "**Lamad**" (HB) Duet.4:1 ["**teach**"] and Deut.5:1 ["**learn**"]. *The Greek requires two words to achieve what the Hebrew does in one word – "Lamad."*
  - **The Bible says that "teaching" means "causing learning" or "causing to Learn"**

- **The spirit of Learning is built into Biblical teaching – “causing to Learn”**
  - **Teaching** – requires the spirit of learning – (Jesus) "Learn of me or learn from me" – (Matt.11:29).
- f. **The first Laws given on Mt. Sinai** took 40 days of fasting without bread or water by Moses as God engraved on stone, 12 directives to be taught and learned by His people.
- g. **They were well thought out!** They address all issuers of harmonious Relationships of life. Man to God, Man to man and Man to themselves.
- h. **Deuteronomy 6:6–11 instructs us;** “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. **You shall teach** (cause to learn) **them diligently to your children** and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall **bind them as a sign on your hand**, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall **write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates**.
- i. **They were to lead us to Jesus** for redemption and to be empowered with His life – eternal life!
- j. **David expressed 7 times in Psalms 119 how much he loved God’s law – teaching - learning:**
- "O how love I your Law – (vs.94)
  - "Your law do I love" – (vs. 113)
  - “Your Law I do love” – (vs.113; 163; 165)
  - “Your Law is my delight – (vs.174)
- k. **“The blessed man will meditate (study) in God’s Law day and night”** (Psa.1:2)

- I. What made David a man after God's own heart? – **His strict attention to the law and worship of God**

**2. TESTIMONIES** (“Eduth”) [used 25 times] – meaning: **That which God has testified of himself and his will** (vs.2).

a. **This is a two-part responsibility.**

b. To understand - What has God testified about **himself**?

- **The range** of God: "I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End" (Rev.1: 11).
- **The power** of God: "I am that I am" – the God that makes things happen now! (Exodus 3:14)
- **The way** of God: "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man comes to the father but me" (John 14:6).

c. To understand – What has God testified about **His will**?

- **The virtue** of God: To the man dying with leprosy, who asked for healing – "I will, be you clean!" (Luke 5:12–16)
- **The invitation** of God: "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt.4:19)
- **The compassion** of God: "It is not my will that any should perish, but all, come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9,)
- **The unity** of God: "That they all may be one, as you, Father, are in Me, and I in You: that they also maybe one in Us, that the world may believe that you sent Me" (John 17:21)
- **The commission** of God: "And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send

the promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in this city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." (Luke 24:49)

- The **evaluation** of God: "If you love me keep my commandments" (John 14:15).
- Loving God is always attached to keeping his Commandments

**3. PRECEPTS** ("Piqqudim") [used 21 times] - meaning:  
**Instructions/guidelines from a superior regarding the duties of those under him** (vs.4)

- a. As with God to man – in order **to bring about a great change in the situation of a subordinate**
- b. It means appointment, allocation, or a general rule what is mandated by God that is intended **to regulate behavior or thought.**
- c. **Instructions / guidelines**

**DUTY - a moral or legal obligation; a responsibility.**

d. **Simple Instructions / Guidelines**

Mark 11:2-7- "And saith unto them, Go your way into the village over against you: and as soon as ye be entered into it, ye shall find a colt tied, whereon never man sat; loose him, and bring him. And if any man says unto you, why do ye this? Say ye that the Lord hath need of him; and straightway he will send him."

**Simple instructions: even the words to speak. How could they mess it up?**

- Jesus sending the disciples to get a colt for him to ride upon, included both the disciples and the owner of the colt obedience (Luke 19:30)

- Obedience is on parade in **simple things that we consider not spiritual** – like: going to a certain street to find a colt; unfastening the colt; giving a simple answer when asked; and walking with the colt back to Jesus.
- **Hebrew 13:17** – "Obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."

### **The Importance**

e. **Psalms 119:4** – "Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently."

- The urgency of it using the **Hebrew Lexical aids to the Old Testament**

f. **God has **commanded** us to **keep** his precepts **diligently**.**

**"Commanded"** – (Tsawah) -

1. **To constitute, make firm, establish, to appoint anyone over something** (1 Sam. 13:14; 25:30; 2 Sam.6:21; Neh. 5:14; 7:2)
2. **To arrange; to command; charge** (Gen. 2:16; 26:11; 32:4; 50:16; Ex, 1:22; 5:6; Esth. 2:10, 20)
3. **To ordain, commission** (1 Chr. 22:12; Ezra 8:17; Esth. 4:5; Jer. 14:14; 23:32)
4. **To delegate something; to send a messenger; to set in order.** It is the picture of a superior giving a verbal communication to a subordinate. The word includes the content of what was said (Gen. 12:20).
5. Gen. 2:16 **focused upon the action itself, where God set down the rule. God is not to be questioned regarding the work of His creative hands** (Is. 45: 11).

6. His commands are unique, requiring an **inner commitment**, not mere, external, superficial obedience (Is. 29:13).

### **To obey and reverence from the heart**

- A **child** serves from love
- The **servant** works for wages

**When God commands, it happens** (Ps. 33:9). **Sometimes He issues orders through His prophets** (Jer. 27:4) **who speak for Him** (Jer. 1:17). No determinative event in the course of history happens unless God ordained it (Lam. 3:37). **He decrees that His people will be victorious** (Ps. 44:4).

7. **Tsawah** is also used on a human level for **the instruction of a father to his son** (1 Sam. 17:20), **a farmer to his workers** (Ruth 2:9), **and a king to his subjects** (2 Sam. 21:14). Jacob gave orders to his sons in considerable detail about burying his bones in Canaan (Gen. 49:29, 33).

### **Just Follow Directions:**

Joshua 6:16-18

1. **Shout**
2. **Spare Rahab**
3. **Keep yourself from the accursed thing**

### **PURPOSE:**

1. **Prevent** personal and family curse
2. **Protect** the entire camp

### **"Keep" – (Shamar) –**

1. **To keep, guard (a garden)**, Gen. 2: 15; 3:24
2. **Lock**, Gen. 30:31
3. **A house**. Eccl. 12:3)

4. **To keep safe, preserve** (1 Sam. 26:15, 16; 2 Sam. 18:12; Job 2:6; Prov. 6:22; 13:3),
5. **To protect** (Gen. 28:15, 20; PS. 1:27. 16:1; 25:20),
6. **To watch** - as a watchman of cattle or sheep, 1 Sam. 17:20,
7. **As a prophet**, Isa. 21 :11; 62:6);
8. **To hedge around something** (as with thorns);
9. **To retain** (Gen. 37: 11; 41 :35),
10. **To abstain from something** (Deut. 4: 9, Josh. 6:18);
11. **To observe** (a covenant, Gen. 17:9, 10,18:19;
12. **The commandments of God**, 1 Kgs. 11:10;
13. **The Sabbath**, Is. 56:2, 6;
14. **A promise**, 1 Kgs. 3:6; 8:24, 25),
15. **To regard; to attend; to be kept, be guarded; to take heed, beware; to revere** (Ps. 31 :6).
16. The first occurrence of "Keep" [shamar]: is Gen. 2:15 which has the sense of tending or exercising great care over the garden. In the same way, Harhas kept the priest's garments (2 Kgs. 22:14). **God was the "Keeper of Israel"** (Ps. 121:4).
17. It has **the sense of watching over someone** in 1 Sam. 26:15 and **besieging a city** in 2 Sam. 11:16.
18. In a religious vein, shamar expresses the careful attention which was paid to the obligations of a covenant, to laws or to statutes. Abraham gave orders to his children to keep the way of the Lord (Gen. 18:19, cf. Ex. 20:6; Lev. 18:26; Deut. 26:16; Ezek. 11:20).
19. Also, the word can refer to a narrow watching (i.e., **lying in wait for someone to ambush him**, Job 13:27; 33:11; PS. 56:6; 71:10).
20. **The Cherubim guarded against intruders** (Gen. 3:24). Cain asked, "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Gen. 4:9). Satan was warned **not to touch Job's life ("save"/ "Keep")** (Job 2:6).

**"Diligently"** - Excellently, **to the uttermost**. characterized by **steady, earnest, energetic**, and **painstaking effort**

- God has never given a commandment which He knew to be impossible to observe.

**g. Just Follow Directions**

James 2: 22-25

“This man shall be blessed in his deeds” (vs. 25)

- h. David a man after God's own heart – **in his admitting in the whole of his conduct, that God was King in Israel, and that he himself was but His vice-manager**

**4. STATUTES** (“Chaqqin”) [used 21 times]- meaning: **“to engrave” or etching** (vs. 5)

**a. Implies permanent and unchangeable regulations**

- Ancient people often engraved their important information upon slabs of stone and metal and then displayed them in public places
- It was done in the palm of one's hand (Isaiah 49:16)
- As God engraved the 10 Commandments with his finger upon stones – so his statutes are to be engraved upon our hearts – never to be erased all (Exodus 31:18)

**5. COMMANDMENTS** (“Miswah”-“Miswot” [used 22 times]- meaning: **“a charge”** (vs.4,6)

**a. Indicates the words of authority as from a commander and is necessary to be obeyed as charged.**

- b. It was the **terms of the contract** in a deed of purchase for a plot of land (Jer.32:11)
- c. COMMANDMENTS - "To command. Order, Ordain; because **they show us what we should do**, and **what we should leave undone**, and **expect our obedience**."
- d. Samuel gave Saul a commandment **to kill all** - Joshua gave commandment **not to touch the cursed things of Jericho**
- Samuel= represents Spiritual or Religious Authority
  - Joshua = represents Military or Civil / Secular Authority
  - In each case disobedience brought a tragic end (1 Samuel 15:1-25; Joshua 6:18)
- e. David being a man after God's own heart – **never attempted to alter any of the laws, or in the least change the Israelites Constitution.**
- **The Word expressed in Psalms 119**
    - **(V.4)** – "Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently."
      - a. Rather, thou hast ordained thy precepts for diligent observance, or for men to observe them diligently. Men sometimes give precepts which they do not care to have obeyed; but **God's precepts are intended for careful, diligent, and continual observance.**
    - **(v.6)** – "Then shall **I not be ashamed**, when I have respect unto all thy commandments."
      - a. In that case I shall not be ashamed, either before God or man. **Shame follows transgression**: I shall escape shame, if my obedience is perfect.
      - b. **Have respect unto.** – Literally, look upon, or into, as in a mirror. (James 1:23.) The Divine Law is as a mirror, which shows man his defects; the faithful, in looking in it, have no cause to blush.

- **(v.10)** – “With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.”
  - a. "let me not **accidentally** and **through ignorance stray** from the right path.”
- **(v.19)** – “I am a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me.”
- **(v.21)** – “Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments.”
- **(v.32)** – “I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.”
- **(v.35)** – “35 Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.”
- **(v.47)** – K J “And I will **delight** myself in thy commandments, which I have loved.” (“because I love them”)
  - a. **Delight** (Strong's 8173): **To look upon, fondle, please, amuse, to look about, stare**
- **(v.48)** – “My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes.”
  - a. In a sort of qualified worship (comp. Genesis 14:22; Psalm 28:2; Psalm 134:2; Psalm 141:2; Lamentations 3:41).
- **(v.60)** – “I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments.”
  - a. Men are apt to put off their repentance - to delay it to a more "convenient season" (As Felix and his wife Drusilla after hearing Paul's testimony of the faith in Christ – Acts 24:25).
  - b. The psalmist was not so foolish - he "made haste," – This was wise, for "now is the accepted time" (2 Corinthians 6:2).
- **(v.66)** – “Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments.”
  - a. Give me sound judgment and wisdom, to discern right from wrong. For I have believed thy commandments. I

have looked to them, and trusted in them as my guides in the way of righteousness

- **(v.73)** – “Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.”
  - a. Because you have made me and fashioned me – Give me understanding through your commandments of **how to manage this body** that you have given me (v. 34; Psalm 100:3)
- **(v.86)** – “86 All thy commandments are **faithful**: they persecute me wrongfully; help thou me.”
  - a. All thy commandments are faithful; literally, are faithfulness. This is said in respect of the **promises** and **judgments** attached to them.
  - b. They (i.e. my enemies) **persecute** (To pursue, chase) **me** wrongfully; **Help me against them, so that they may do me no harm.**
- **(v.98)** – “Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.”
  - a. The knowledge of God's Law gives wisdom and an understanding infinitely above the cunning and craft of worldly men.
  - b. If our enemies are ever with me – wisdom says – God’s commandments should always be present to my thoughts, as my rule of life.
- **(v.115)** – “Depart from me, ye evildoers: for **I will keep** the commandments of my God.”
  - a. There is no fellowship between light and darkness, between righteousness and unrighteousness (2 Corinthians 10:16). Good men must separate themselves from those who are manifestly workers of iniquity (comp. Psalm 6:8).
  - b. Association with the wicked hinders men from keeping God's Law. Not only is there the danger of corruption

(1 Corinthians 15:3;); but, at the best, attention is distracted, and energies weakened.

- **(v.127)** – “Therefore I love thy commandments **above gold**; yea, above fine gold.”
  - a. Strong's 2091: **Gold**, something gold-colored, as oil, a clear sky
  - b. **even the purest gold-**
- **(v.131)** – “I opened my mouth and panted: for I longed for thy commandments.”
  - a. “**Panting**” - inhale eagerly, to cover, to be angry, to hasten
  - b. The idea expressed is that of **earnest** and **eager desire**.
- **(v.143)** – “Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me: yet thy commandments are my delights.”
  - a. I am happy in the midst of my troubles, for the joy that I have in thy Word (see vers. 16, 35, 47, 77, 174).
- **(v.151)** – “Thou art near, O Lord; and all thy commandments are truth.”
  - a. Because God’s Commandments (words) are **ever true** and **always with me...**
  - b. When my enemy draws nigh, "God is still nearer - ready to **succor** (relief, comfort, support) and **defend** and **save** (Psalm 145:18). Because I have the truth of His word, commandments within me. – His word is Him!
- **(v.166)** – “Lord, I have **hoped for** thy salvation, and **done** thy commandments.”
  - a. **Faith** and **patience** (the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble or suffering without getting angry or upset).

**7. WORD** – meaning: **The revelation of God** (vs,9)

b. Lord, I have hoped for and have waited for thee, continually expecting thee to come to my aid, and save me from my enemies, for **I have done what you said.**

➤ **(v.172)** – “My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness.”

a. My tongue shall **return praise**, for the fulfillment of thy promises. For all thy commandments are righteousness and are **worthy objects of praise.**

**6. JUDGMENTS** (“Mishpatim”) [used 23 times]– meaning: **Ordinances or decisions God has made as a judge in order to make earthly behavior conform to his heavenly standards** (vs.7)

a. Properly, **a verdict from God's courtroom** (whether favorable or unfavorable) which was pronounced judicially, a judgment, a sentence, a formal decree, justice – refers to all functions of government (civil or religious)

b. **All rulings in God's court of final and cannot be appealed:**

- "The souls that sins shall die" – "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23)
- "Thou shall not" are abominations that God hates
- **Only God can overturn his judgments – this he did through the cross!** (Col.2:14-15)
- **Justice** is primarily an attribute of God – it is rooted in his character and ought to be emulated by godly people (Psalms 37:30; Proverbs 12:5)

- a. Described by the phrase "**The word of the Lord came**" (1 Chron. 17:3)
  - i. A divine source of light and knowledge beyond human understanding – **Peter's revelation of Jesus Christ** (Matt.16:13-20)
  - ii. The gift of "**the word of knowledge**" is given by the Holy Ghost (1 Cor.12:8)

### **8. WORD** - meaning: The Promises of God or "to say" (vs.9)

- a. **Sometimes they are personalized** (Psa.107: 20; 147:15; Isaiah 9:8)
- b. **"All the promises of God are yes and Amen"** (2 Cor.1:20)
- c. **"To say"** – Scripture is mentioned in every verse except verse 12
- d. **God's Words** are illustrated as:

### **9. WAYS** - of God (vs.3,37)

- 1. **Paths** - What we do with our lives (vs.59)
- 2. Note **Acts 9:2** -"in the way" – as being in a Christian

## 10. NAME - of God (vs.55)

1. The name of God (Yahweh/Jehovah) **appears 24 times**
2. **The WORD is not only his character but his name.**
  - a. **John 1:1** – "In the beginning was the WORD, and the WORD was with God, and the **Word was God**"
  - b. **Rev.19:13** – "And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God"

## 11. FAITHFULNESS - of God (vs.89-90)

1. **Psalm 119:89-90** - "Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast."
  2. **Lamentations 3:22-23** - "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."
- David a man after God's own heart – in all his public official conduct he acted according to the divine mind, and fulfilled the will of his Master

**GOD'S WORD DEMANDS A HUMAN RESPONSE**  
**(As is illustrated in Psalms 119)**

**1. Praise and thanksgiving for it:**

- a. **(vs.164)** - "Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments."
- b. **(vs.62)** – "At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto you because of thy righteous judgments"
- c. **When reciting or reading** Psalm 119 at Orthodox funerals services and on various ALL-SOULS DAYS throughout the year, "**Hallelujah**" is chanted between each verse (176 times).
- d. **It made David dance** – (C. S. Lewis)

**2. Petitions may be kept**

- a. **(Vs. 11)** – "Hiding the word... That he might not sin..." - Is like carrying an ANTIDOTE with him should he be near an infected place (A sacred antidote) – Thomas Watson

**3. It offers; comfort, conviction, and confidence in its fulfillment.**

**4. Prayer for the ability to understand it.**

**5. Judgment of those who reject it.**

**God's Word Demands a human response such as:**

**Walk in it (vs.1) - Keep it (vs.2) - Seek it with a whole heart (vs.2) - Respect it (vs.6) - Learning it (vs.7) - Take heed to it (vs.9) - Hide it in your heart (vs.11) - Declare it (vs. 13) - Rejoice in it (vs.14) – Meditate upon it (vs.15) – Delight in it (vs. 16,24) – Pray for it (vs. 18 - 19) – Long for it (vs. 20) – Pray to understand it (vs. 27) – Talk of it (vs. 27) – Be strengthened by it (vs. 28)**

**Choose and lay it before you** (vs.30) – **Be stuck to it** (vs. 31) – **Run after it** (vs. 32) – **Incline your heart to it** (vs. 36) – **Be established by it** (vs. 38) – **Remember it** (vs. 52) – **Let it be your song** (vs. 54) – **Think about it** (vs. 59) – **Make haste and don't delay to keep it** (vs. 60) – **Give thanks for it** (vs. 62) – **Desire to be taught by it** (vs. 64, 66) – **Seek its comfort** (vs. 76) – **Let your heart be sound in it** (vs. 80) – **Hope in it** (vs. 81) – **Don't forsake it** (vs. 87) – **Consider it** (vs. 95) – **Love it** (vs. 113) – **Taste it** (vs. 103) – **Be upheld by it** (vs. 116) – **Fear it** (vs. 120)

**Love it above gold or money** (vs. 127) – **Esteem it** (vs.128) – **Be enlightened by it** (vs.130) – **Be quick and revived by it** (vs.149) – **Consider it** (vs. 152) – **Don't decline from it** (vs. 157) – **Be grieved when it is not obeyed** (vs. 158) – **Receive great peace from it** (vs. 165) – **Do the word** (vs.166) – **Be delivered by it** (vs. 170)

**AMEN**