

Introduction

I.N.S.T.R.U.C.T.I.O.N.



Today, as we look at verses 17 - 32
we are considering the letter "N"
which for us signifies "Narrow your
focus"

The writer felt overwhelmed and detached by the world around him and it produced in him a hunger to run to his father and connect to him and to His Word.

Deal generously with Your servant so that I might live; then I will keep Your word.

Open my eyes so that I may
contemplate wonderful things from
Your instruction.

I am a stranger on earth; do not hide
Your commands from me.

I am continually overcome with
longing for Your judgments.

Psalm 119:17–32

HCSB

You rebuke the proud, the ones under
a curse, who wander from Your
commands.

Take insult and contempt away from me, for I have kept Your decrees.

Though princes sit together speaking
against me, Your servant will think
about Your statutes;

Your decrees are my delight and my
counselors.

Psalm 119:17–32

HCSB

My life is down in the dust; give me life
through Your word.

Psalm 119:17–32

HCSB

I told You about my life, and You listened to me; teach me Your statutes.

Help me understand the meaning of
Your precepts so that I can meditate
on Your wonders.

I am weary from grief; strengthen me
through Your word.

Psalm 119:17–32

HCSB

Keep me from the way of deceit and
graciously give me Your instruction.

Psalm 119:17–32

HCSB

I have chosen the way of truth; I have
set Your ordinances before me.

I cling to Your decrees; Lord, do not
put me to shame.

I pursue the way of Your commands,
for You broaden my understanding.

1. Antidote in Difficulties

Deal generously with Your servant so that I might live; then I will keep Your word.

Open my eyes so that I may
contemplate wonderful things from
Your instruction.

I am a stranger on earth; do not hide
Your commands from me.

I am continually overcome with
longing for Your judgments.

Psalm 119:17–20

HCSB

When difficulties come and you are feeling the weight of life's problems, is the first thought in your mind..I am detached from God's word?

In difficulty and distress, the Lord
and His Word are a comfort to the
godly.

God and His word are not a means
to a happy life. God and His word
are life!

Too often we just read the Bible as an obligation, or for some inspiration, but we fail to comprehend the richness of the truth it reveals.

We should not think of the precepts,
commandments, ordinances, etc.,
in legalistic terms

There is a longing that is produced
in us as we spend time before God
and in his word

2. Strength in Reviling

You rebuke the proud, the ones under
a curse, who wander from Your
commands.

Take insult and contempt away from
me, for I have kept Your decrees.

Though princes sit together speaking
against me, Your servant will think
about Your statutes;

Your decrees are my delight and my
counselors.

Psalm 119:21–24

HCSB

The "arrogant" in this world despise
God and godliness with their "scorn
and contempt."

In spite of opposition from the community and her "rulers," the psalmist receives joy and guidance from God's "statutes" as his "counsel".

Every day, 13 Christians worldwide are killed because of their faith. And every day, 12 Christians are unjustly arrested or imprisoned, and another five are abducted.

Today those who are faithful to
Christ and his Word must also
expect to be criticized and ridiculed

You are blessed when people hate you, when they exclude you, insult you, and slander your name as evil because of the Son of Man.

Those who are persecuted for righteousness are blessed, for the kingdom of heaven is theirs.

3. Instruction in *Weakness*

My life is down in the dust; give me life
through Your word.

Psalm 119:25–27

HCSB

I told You about my life, and You listened to me; teach me Your statutes.

Help me understand the meaning of
Your precepts so that I can meditate
on Your wonders.

Because our natural minds tend to resist God, we cannot fully understand his Word without His help

One of the ways that God works to move us beyond our natural tendency to resist God is by allowing difficulties in our lives to humble us

God seldom rescues us from a situation that He can perfect us through.

He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive Him because it doesn't see Him or know Him. But you do know Him, because He remains with you and will be in you.

John 14:17

HCSB

In his devotion to God, he desires to understand and apply God's word and deepen his dependence on the Lord.

It is in our times of deepest distress
that we are most teachable

But He gives greater grace. Therefore
He says: God resists the proud, but
gives grace to the humble.

Therefore, submit to God. But resist the Devil, and he will flee from you.

James 4:6–10

HCSB

Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, sinners, and purify your hearts, double-minded people!

James 4:6–10

HCSB

Be miserable and mourn and weep.
Your laughter must change to
mourning and your joy to sorrow.

James 4:6–10

HCSB

Humble yourselves before the Lord,
and He will exalt you.

James 4:6–10

HCSB

When we connect with the Word of God , the scripture opens up the greatness of God's acts in creation and in redemption.

4. Strength in Sorrow

I am weary from grief; strengthen me
through Your word.

Keep me from the way of deceit and
graciously give me Your instruction.

Psalm 119:28–32

HCSB

I have chosen the way of truth; I have
set Your ordinances before me.

I cling to Your decrees; Lord, do not
put me to shame.

I pursue the way of Your commands,
for You broaden my understanding.

The word of God has the power to
"strengthen" those overwhelmed
with "sorrow."

The word of God also keeps one from the ways of the world, as it renews an inner, burning desire to live a life of devotion to God

God's word produces in us faith and hope. These are the antithesis of anxieties, sorrow and shame of fearing the future.