WALK IN THE WORD

Part 8 of The Savior King. Psalm 119:9–16.
Peter Foxwell. The Cornerstone Church. November 1, 2026.
More teaching resources are available at: www.famousgod.com/groups

PSALM 119: A UNIQUE PRAYER

- Psalm 119 has some notable features:
- It's the longest Psalm in the Bible, 176 verses.
- It's an acrostic poem, one stanza for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
- It's a wisdom poem, passing on a godly perspective to a younger man.
- Psalm 119 is obsessed with God's Word.
- It uses several terms for God's word:
  - Instruction x 28
  - Decrees x 23
  - Precepts x 21
  - Statutes x 22
  - Commands x 22
  - Judgments x 22
  - Word x 24
  - Promise x 18
- It uses 22 different words to describe ways we can read the Bible.

PSALM 119: THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH QUESTION

- Verse 9's question and answer are the key to the passage.
- We grow in godliness by keeping God's word. We keep God's word by:

  - Verse 10: by seeking God wholeheartedly in his word.
  - Verse 10: by committing to God's word.
  - Verse 11: by treasuring God's word.
  - Verse 12: by learning God's word.
  - Verse 13: by speaking God's word.
  - Verse 14: by loving God's ways revealed in his word.
  - Verse 15: by meditating on (and thinking deeply about) God's word.
  - Verse 16: by delighting in God's word.
  - Verse 16: by memorizing God's word.
- Bible engagement is THE roadmap to spiritual maturity. Modern research supports this: "Reading the Bible is the number-one predictor of spiritual growth."

  LifeWay Research, "5 Truths from 10 Years of Discipleship Research," Dec. 3, 2016 — research.lifeway.com/2016/12/03/5-truths-10-years-discipleship-research/

FEASTING ON THE WORD

- How can we cultivate a consistent, committed, God-seeking, Bible-feasting habit that works for us?
- Caution: The Bible is not an end in itself. It leads us to Jesus (John 5:39–40). We're not just studying a book; we're meeting a Person.
- As we read the Word of God in the power of the Spirit of God while seeking God, we grow progressively into the holiness of God.
- We can take two intentional actions to become Bible-feasters.

ASK GOD TO MAKE YOU FANATICAL ABOUT THE BIBLE

- A Bible fanatic is someone who places a high value on God's word. The psalmist "treasured" it (verse 11). Treasure = hide, absorb it.
- The Bible fanatic is the happy man of Psalm 1: "His delight is in the Lord's instruction, and he meditates on it day and night" (Psalm 1:2, CSB).

- The Bible is God's voice, so we should love reading it. Ask the Lord for renewed desire and love for the Bible that overcomes every reason and excuse not to feast on it.

ASK GOD TO HELP YOU FOLLOW A READING PLAN

- Without a reading plan, we'll have a hard time making time to read.
- The psalmist knew he was prone to wander (verse 10). We need to be intentional to choose a regular time, place, Bible, and plan that works for us individually.
- See the Book Table for Bibles, plans, and guides.

B.Y.O.B.

- Bring Your Own Bible to church because:
  - You can make the sermon yours — highlight, take notes, etc.
  - Your kids and others will see it. Example is contagious.
  - You'll remember more of what you read.

WEAR YOUR BIBLE OUT

- Follow an intentional Bible-feasting plan in 2027 as you seek the Lord with all your heart and strive to grow in Christlikeness.
- Do it with a paper Bible, and mark it up. And bring it to church.
- Charles Spurgeon is often quoted as saying, "A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't."
- Pray to the Lord: "Please help me to be a Bible fanatic like the Psalm 1 happy man who meditates on your Bible day and night. Amen."

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Use any or all of the following questions to guide your group's conversation. Read Psalm 119:9–16.

Observation (what it says)

- List everything the psalmist does with God's word in verses 10–16 to keep God's word and keep his life pure. How many different actions can you find?
- Look again at verses 10–12. Some of the psalmist's words are prayers asking God to act, and some are commitments he makes himself. Which are which — and what does that balance tell us about how growth works?

Interpretation (what it means)

- The sermon put it plainly: the Bible is not A way to grow — it is THE way. There's no shortcut, trick, or program. Why do you think God designed growth to run through a book we read slowly over a lifetime, rather than something faster or more dramatic?
- In verse 11, the psalmist says he has "treasured" God's word in his heart — the word literally means "hidden." How is treasuring the word different from simply reading it or hearing a sermon on it?

Application (where it lands in real life)

- The sermon named two intentional actions: ask God to make you fanatical about the Bible, and ask him to help you follow an intentional reading plan. Which of the two is the bigger hurdle for you right now — desire, or a plan? Why is this, and what can you do to overcome the hurdle?
- How might praying for the Spirit's help before you read ("Open my eyes to see wondrous things in your word"), and reflecting on the passage (its meaning and application to your life) after you read, increase the impact of Bible reading for you?