

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 49

The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit

Spiritual Adoption

Psalm 119:65-88

The Hand of God

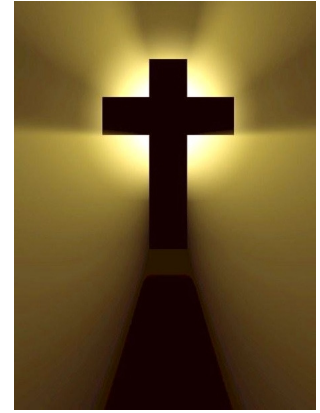
Part 8

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

Thursday, June 2, 2011

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."* *(John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave us One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

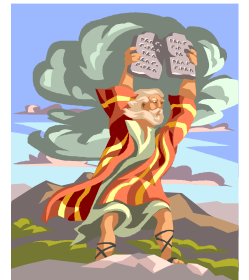


Lesson

As part of our study of spiritual adoption as sons and daughters of God and the fact that we have been looking at and learning about Christian suffering as God's children, we are going to look at [Psalm 119:65-88](#) because it has a lot about what a suffering believer has to say in it. Mostly [Psalm 119](#) is a Psalm of worship and gratitude toward the Word of God. By the way it is the longest Psalm in the Old Testament. All but 3 of its 176 verses speak directly of the Word of God or one of its synonyms. You know what a synonym is right? It means words that are spelled differently but have the same meaning. Synonyms for the Word of God in [Psalm 119](#) are the following: the Law, The Word, judgments, testimony, commandment, statutes, and precepts...all meaning the Word of God...our Bible...the mind of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



The psalm uses eight (8) different Hebrew words to refer to the Word of God. The writer of [Psalm 119](#) was going through horrible suffering as he wrote these verses. He was going into captivity with the Jewish people, and the Babylonian army that conquered them was cruelly torturing and abusing him and the other Jews they captured. This was part of God's discipline to Israel and the Jewish people for NOT doing what God commanded them to do...bring the Gospel to the Gentiles and obey the Mosaic Law. This is the law that Moses received at the top of the mountain from Jesus who appeared to him as a burning bush.



Believe me when I tell you there was a lot more to the Mosaic Law than just the Ten Commandments. It contained all the laws of government, social laws on how they were to live their lives on earth, health laws, and most importantly spiritual Law. It was a HUGE deal and event when Jesus gave Moses all this information. It was the start of everything the Jewish nation had to do to be in God's plan in the Age of Israel. In fact this was the start of the dispensation of the Age of Israel. There's a lot of information here so I hope you are paying attention!!!

[Psalm 119](#) is an "acrostic" poem. Whoa! Uh Oh another one of those big words!!! Don't worry, you'll get it. The Holy Spirit is on the job and helping you understand all about this. The word "acrostic" means a verse in which certain letters such as the first in each line form a word or message. In this case...our [Psalm 119](#)...it uses the letters of the Hebrew alphabet, their symbol and meaning to get the lesson across to believers. This psalm has 176 verses. It is organized into 22 stanzas each with 8 verses. In the Bible, 8 is the number of new beginnings. I just thought I would let you know since numbers are a BIG part of the meaning of things in our wonderful Bible. There are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet.

In this "acrostic" poem, [Psalm 119](#), each stanza of 8 verses is dedicated to one Hebrew letter, and they occur in order. [Verses 1-8](#) are dedicated to *aleph*, the first letter in the Hebrew alphabet; [verses 9-16](#) are dedicated to *beth*, the second letter in the Hebrew alphabet and so on...and so on etc.

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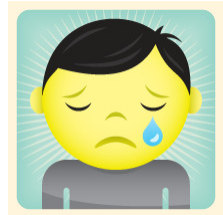
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Now we are going to start in **verse 65**. Eight times eight is sixty-four (8 X 8 =64), so our first stanza is dedicated to the ninth Hebrew letter, and that is **teth**. Our second stanza is dedicated to the 10th Hebrew letter and that is **yodh**. Our third stanza is dedicated to the 11th Hebrew letter and that is **kaph**. Now by dedicated this means REALLY dedicated. The GREAT supernatural thing about the acrostic poem is that each line, each verse in the stanza, begins with the Hebrew letter that is being featured. Do you all understand this?

So each verse in stanza 9 begins with the 9th letter of the Hebrew alphabet, **teth**. Each verse in stanza 10 begins with the 10th letter of the Hebrew alphabet, **yodh** etc. Not only that, but each letter has with it a special meaning that is illustrated in the pictograph that is the Hebrew letter. You see unlike our alphabet, the Hebrew alphabet has a letter and a picture to explain the letter!!! Cool huh? These letters are the center points for the 9th, 10th, and 11th stanzas of **Psalm 119**. These stanzas deal with suffering, learning, and obedience to the word of God.

All of these letters use a pictograph or symbol of a hand but in different positions and with different meanings. We have **teth**, the hand of relationship; **yodh**, the hand of workmanship, and **kaph**, the hand of compassion in the 9th, 10th, and 11th letters of the Hebrew alphabet. From our point of view, when we look at the hands as our hands, **teth** is the hand of our being called to be an adult son or daughter to God. That should sound VERY familiar to you by now, right? **Yodh** is the hand of our obedience to the plan of God. **Yodh** shows us the obedience of adult sons and daughters of the Father. **Kaph** pictures an empty hand, open and ready to be filled. It shows us the palm of the Lord's hand. It represents our outstretched hand of spiritual need...which is GRACE in our Church Age. It refers to someone being held and comforted, or being held up under the power of another. Who do you think that is? Right...it's God our Father...Abba!!

The Psalmist, the young Jewish slave boy, talks of suffering while waiting for God's comfort and justice, yet he has not forgotten God's teaching. This is what keeps him from falling apart and freaking out!!!! What is happening to him is making him very humble. The Word promises that the Lord always gives grace to the humble. He always fills the hungry with good things.



The **teth** pictures a snake, or a hand ready to grip another. It means to surround, and represents relationship.



But then we come to be aware of the fact that there are another pair of hands in the picture, and these hands are God's hands. Now the **teth** of relationship means that we are in God's family, and once family always family. It is the hand of security and boldness...GOD! As children, we have the security of Jesus' promise in **John 10:28** that "I give eternal life to them (believers), and they shall never perish, and no one shall snatch them out of My hand."



The **yodh** pictures a cupped hand, a hand closing, prepared to take hold of something and ready to work.



The **yodh** becomes the hand of God's workmanship with us, molding and crafting us into a special vessel for His use. **Yodh** refers to a bent hand, and it can be applied in a symbolic sense to how a person becomes conscious of something. The young boy psalmist sees God's hands fashioning him through teachings, punishment, comfort and compassion like a potter's wheel forms the clay. As we open our hearts to the Word, the hand of God molds and shapes us into vessels useful to the Master and fit for His service. This is how it is when we are shaped and start using our spiritual gifts to serve Christ and others. **Eph 2:10** "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for (divine) good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them".



The **kaph** pictures an empty hand, open and ready to be filled. It symbolizes the palm of the Lord's hand.



The **kaph** refers to someone being held and comforted, or being sustained under the power of another. The young boy Psalmist talks of suffering while waiting for God's comfort and justice, yet he has not forgotten God's



teaching. This letter points to the tender comfort that the Father gives us as His adult sons and daughters when we go through suffering or very bad times. Remember how we saw God the Father expressing His love for us when we are suffering? Our Father assures us that even if things got so bad that a mother might forget her own child, even under those circumstances He will not abandon us. Remember when we looked at [Isa 49:15-16](#)? "Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these (women) may forget, but I will NOT forget you. (16) Behold, I have carved you onto the palms of My hands..."

Living as a son or daughter of God means relying on the all powerful hands of the Father. [Luke 23:44-47](#) "It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour, (45) because the sun was darkened; and the veil of the temple was torn in two. (46) And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, 'Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT.' Having said this, He breathed His last." Living as an adult son or daughter means opening our hands in humble dependence on God; in the sure hope that our Father's hands will fill ours with every good thing. You know He has, don't you? Look at all the blessings in your life, kids!!!



The hands express so much when it comes to the fact that God is our Father. One reason for that is that the hands are a rich symbol in human experience. Let's look at some of the things we say about hands: "You're in good hands." Capable hands. Powerful hands. Faithful hands. So hands speak of God's omnipotence...His POWER! They speak of God's righteousness (+R).

Hands speak of God's immutability...the fact that He NEVER changes. You can count on His promises. We say things like: "It's in the hands of the jury." "It's out of my hands." "This is getting out of hand." "I wash my hands of this."

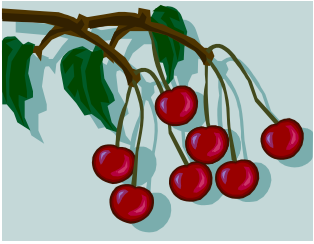
Hands speak of God's sovereignty...His ruler-ship over us. "Let's shake hands on it." Truthfulness and integrity, "Speak hands for me." "Sit on your hands."

A lot of Italian and Irish people talk with their hands!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We hear commands like "All hands on deck." "Let's lend him a hand." (Help or assistance). When we want to express our enjoyment of something we clap our hands. Or we can express our anger and say "If I ever get my hands on him...!!!" We say "Hold me in your hands." "I wanna hold your hand." This shows love and affection and comfort.



We saw that obedience is learned by doing what God wants us to do under any authority. That means it's "hands on" training! Training for what? Training for being the adult sons and daughters of God for all eternity. [2 Peter 1:1-11](#) "Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: (2) Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; (3) seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness (spiritual plan of God), through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. (4) For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them (promises) you may become sharers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. (5) Now for this very reason also, applying all carefulness, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, (6) and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness (spiritual life in God's plan), and (7) and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. (8) For if these qualities are yours (you practice them) and are increasing, they make you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. (9) For he who lacks these qualities, is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten his purification (salvation) from his former sins. (10) Therefore, brothers and sisters, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; (11) for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you."



Now you know that your heavenly Father has you in His heavenly perfect hands! Relax, let Him bless you. Obey Him and see what He does for you in ANY event of your life. YOU ARE IN GOOD and PERFECT HANDS!!! When you do this, God will carry you forward in His plan and then you will produce the virtues or nature of Christ as they are explained in [Gal 5:22-23](#) as the fruit of the Spirit. This is what we work towards, kids, to be like Him and to love one another just as He loves us! [Gal 5:22-26](#) "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (24) Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. (25) If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. (26) Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another."

Let's let God hold you in His hands and let Him bless you. Imitate our Lord, Jesus Christ and bring others to Him. Let your fruit show to the world.

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on January 9, 2011
Lighthouse Bible Church

