

SENIOR BIBLE FELLOWSHIP ASSIGNMENT: NOVEMBER 11, 2025

Thank you all for the great discussion we had at our October 28th meeting. Although we looked at only one verse, Psalm 119:9, everyone was carefully examining God's word... good job! We may not be proficient (yet) on Hebrew poetry, but I was glad to see folks using the tools I introduced. I am excited as we dig deeper to understand the Old Testament writers and their thought about God.

FYI, a short refresher on Hebrew poetry and parallelism:

English poetry uses rhyming, alliteration, and assonance for its meter/rhythm. Hebrew poetry does not rely on sound, but on the symmetry and variation determined by meaning, emotion, and sentiment. In addition to the words, once the reader can "hear" or understand the author's sentiment/emotion, the reader will begin to get a deeper sense of why the author wrote the poem.

One of the main tools of Hebrew poetry is repetition, which is also called parallelism. Instead of making the poem dull and boring, it should help you see a deeper meaning. Hebrew parallelism is equivalent to English rhyme.

A reminder on why we are going into some depth on this psalm. Certainly you can skim or read the psalm and benefit from it. However, to truly unlock the beauty and wonderful love from God's words (not just Old Testament) comes from meditation and understanding the context of the culture, language, situation, etc of the original language and audience. If this is all confuses you, let me know and I'll try to help.

ASSIGNMENT:

In our last assignment we looked at Psalm 119:9. We used our new found knowledge of Hebrew poetry and parallelism as we compared verse 9 with verse 1.

Here are some comments I remember from the discussions:

- Both verses focus on a person's way. The goal is to have a way which is pleasing to God.
- Verse 9 was the question, and verse 1 was the answer.
- Verse 1 is a foundational statement for Psalm 119. It defines what it means to be a blessed man. It is like a promise from God that you will be blessed if your way is blameless.
- Verse 9 is aimed at youth so they can begin their walk with God on the right path.
- Although verse 9 is directed to young people, it also applies to mature people. However, it also brings out the role mature people have in helping young people in their spiritual growth.

- Blameless and pure mean the same thing for this person.
- A young man has more temptations and distractions than an older man. However, both need to stay in God's word.
- It is good to pour into anyone as early as possible.
- Lacking experience, many youth believe they know it all.

There were many more comments, but I enjoyed the insight from each of your observations. Your experiences and knowledge in the discussions are important.

For our November 11th assignment, we are going on to verses 10, 11, and 12. Please parlay the knowledge we are accumulating as we go on this journey of discovery.

Psalm 119:2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 12

2 Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart,

3 who also do no wrong, but walk in his ways!

4 You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.

10 With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!

11 I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

12 Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes!

QUESTIONS:

1. Having a cursory knowledge of parallelism, please compare verses 10&2, 11&3, and 12&4.

1a. Do you see parallelism between verses 10 and 2. If so, how does the parallelism add to the richness to the Psalm? Do you understand more about the psalmist?

1b. Do you see parallelism between verses 11 and 3. If so, how does the parallelism add to the richness to the Psalm? Do you understand more about the psalmist?

1c. Do you see parallelism between verses 12 and 4. If so, how does the parallelism add to the richness to the Psalm? Do you understand more about the psalmist?

2. Like the psalmist I believe most of us understand verses 1 – 4... that we should be living a blameless life, knowing God's commandments are meant to be obeyed. In verses 10, 11, and 12 the psalmist is praying to God. Are his prayers ones which you believe apply to your spiritual walk?

3. After looking at the first 12 verses of Psalm 119, what have you learned about God... about man... about the relationship between God and man?