

Delighting in God's Path: Following our Sherpa Psalm 119:17-24

Mike Hogue
January 18, 2026





Nepal

Iranian climber missing, sherpa dead after Makalu winter summit

By Sandeep Sen

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<https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/iranian-climber-missing-sherpa-dead-after-makalu-winter-summit>





²⁴Your testimonies also are my
delight; *They are my advisers.*

Psalms 119:24 (NASB 2020)

²¹You rebuke the arrogant, the
cursed, **Who wander** from Your
commandments.

Psalms 119:21 (NASB 2020)

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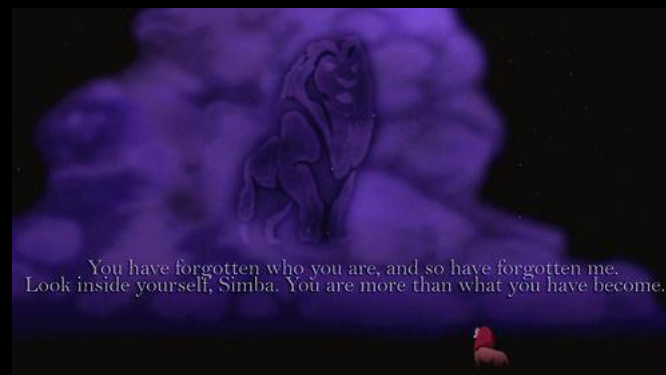
Psalm 119:17-24

Following our Sherpa

1. Live from your _____ (119:17, 19, 23)
2. Seek God's _____ (119:18-19, 24b)
3. Trust despite _____ (119:21-23)

Following our Sherpa

1. Live from your identity (119:17, 19, 23)
2. Seek God's _____ (119:18-19, 24b)
3. Trust despite _____ (119:21-23)



You have forgotten who you are, and so have forgotten me.
Look inside yourself, Simba. You are more than what you have become.



1. Live from your identity (119:17, 19, 23)

A. As a _____ (119:17, 23)

B. As a _____ (119:19)

1. Live from your identity (119:17, 19, 23)

A. As a servant (119:17, 23)

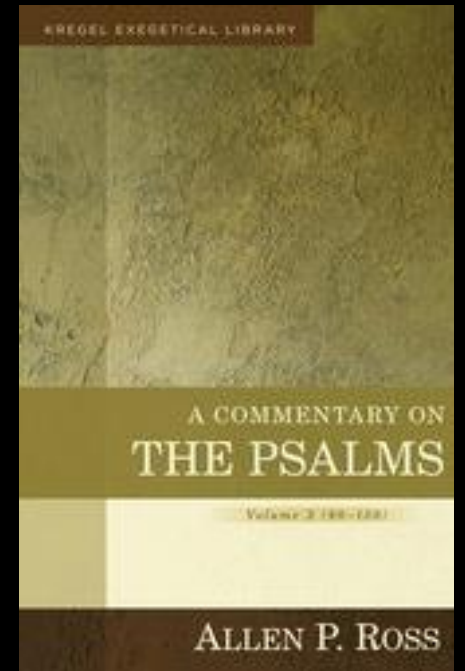
B. As a _____ (119:19)

¹⁷Deal *generously* with **Your servant**,
That I may live and keep Your word.
Psalm 119:17 (NASB 2020)

²³Even though rulers sit *and* speak
against me, **Your servant** meditates
on Your statutes.

Psalms 119:23 (NASB 2020)

In this line, and in verse 23, the psalmist refers to himself as God's servant; such a designation signifies a close, spiritual relationship with the LORD (not all believers are called "the servant of the LORD" in the Bible).



⁵So Moses the servant of the LORD died there in the land of Moab, in accordance with the word of the LORD.

Deuteronomy 34:5 (NASB 2020)

⁵“Go and say to My servant David,
‘This is what the LORD says: “Should
you build Me a house for My
dwelling?

2 Samuel 7:5 (NASB 2020)

⁷Certainly the Lord GOD does nothing
Unless He reveals His secret plan To
His servants the prophets.

Amos 3:7 (NASB 2020)

¹³The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified **His servant Jesus**, *the one* whom you handed over and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release *Him*.

Acts 3:13 (NASB 2020)

⁴²Calling them to Himself, Jesus said to them, “You know that those who are recognized as rulers of the Gentiles domineer over them; and their people in high position exercise authority over them. ⁴³But it is not this way among you; rather, **whoever wants to become prominent among you shall be your servant**; ⁴⁴and whoever wants to be first among you shall be slave of all. ⁴⁵For **even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve**, and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Mark 10:42–45 (NASB 2020)

¹⁶*Act* as free people, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but *use it as bond-servants of God.*

1 Peter 2:16 (NASB 2020)

¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and *that you are not your own?* ²⁰For *you have been bought for a price:* therefore glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20 (NASB 2020)

1. Live from your identity (119:17, 19, 23)

A. As a servant (119:17, 23)

B. As a _____ (119:19)

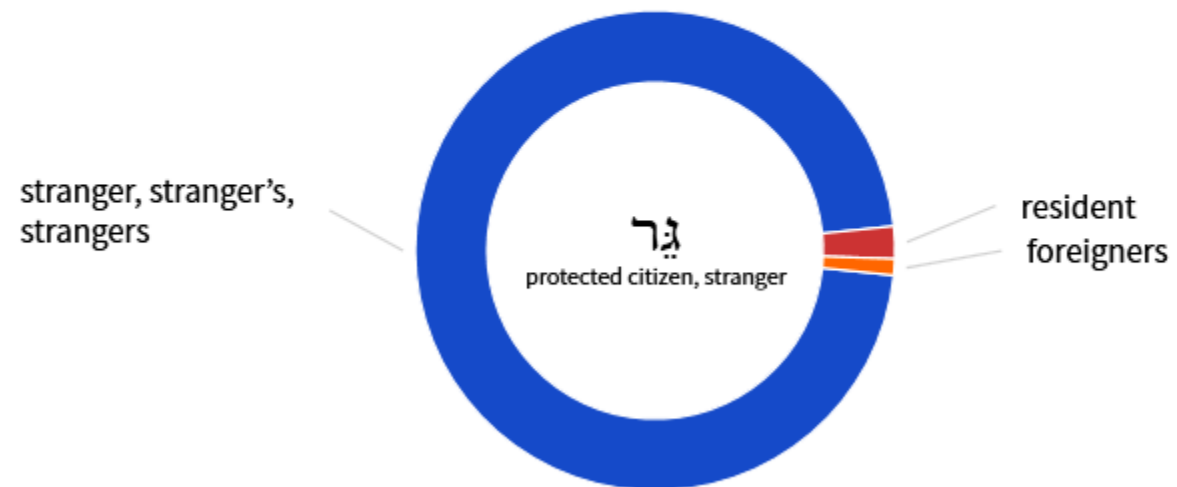
1. Live from your identity (119:17, 19, 23)

A. As a servant (119:17, 23)

B. As a stranger (119:19)

¹⁹I am a stranger on the earth; Do not
hide Your commandments from me.

Psalms 119:19 (NASB 2020)



¹⁹For seven days there shall be no dough with yeast found in your houses; for whoever eats anything with yeast, that person shall be cut off from the congregation of Israel, **whether *he is* a stranger or a native of the land.**

Exodus 12:19 (NASB 2020)

²¹“You shall not oppress a stranger
nor torment him, for you were
strangers in the land of Egypt.

Exodus 22:21 (NASB 2020)

¹²“Hear my prayer, LORD, and listen to my cry for help; Do not be silent to my tears; For I am a stranger with You, One who lives abroad, like all my fathers.

Psalms 39:12 (NASB 2020)



²⁰For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; ²¹who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Philippians 3:20–21 (NASB95)

¹¹Beloved, I urge *you* **as foreigners and strangers** to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul. ¹²Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe *them*, glorify God on the day of visitation.

1 Peter 2:11–12 (NASB 2020)

⁴You adulteresses, do you not know that **friendship with the world is hostility toward God**? Therefore whoever wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 4:4 (NASB 2020)

Following our Sherpa

1. Live from your identity (119:17, 19, 23)
2. Seek God's _____ (119:18-19, 24b)
3. Trust despite _____ (119:21-23)

Following our Sherpa

1. Live from your identity (119:17, 19, 23)
2. Seek God's illumination (119:18-19, 24b)
3. Trust despite _____ (119:21-23)

2. Seek God's illumination (119:18-19, 24b)

A. He removes blindness (119:18)

B. He reveals His will (119:19)

C. He routes our way (119:24b)

2. Seek God's illumination (119:18-19, 24b)

A. He removes blindness (119:18)

B. He reveals His will (119:19)

C. He routes our way (119:24b)

¹⁸Open my eyes, that I may behold
Wonderful things from Your Law.

Psalms 119:18 (NASB 2020)

⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor had the word of the LORD yet been revealed to him.

1 Samuel 3:7 (NASB 2020)

⁵Then the eyes of those who are
blind will be opened, And the ears of
those who are deaf will be
unstopped.

Isaiah 35:5 (NASB 2020)

Ephesians 1:18-21

¹⁸ *I pray that* the eyes of your heart
may be enlightened, so that you will
know what is the hope of His calling,
what are the riches of the glory of His
inheritance in the saints,

¹⁹and what is the boundless greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

²⁰which He brought about in Christ,
when He raised Him from the dead
and seated Him at His right hand in
the heavenly *places*,

²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Ephesians 1:18–21 (NASB 2020)

¹²Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, “I am the Light of the world; the one who follows Me **will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life.**”

John 8:12 (NASB 2020)

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Wonderful things from Your Law.

Psalms 119:18 (NASB 2020)

³³Teach me, the way of Your statutes, LORD, And I shall comply with it to the end. ³⁴Give me understanding, so that I may comply with Your Law And keep it with all *my* heart. ³⁵Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it. ³⁶Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And not to *dishonest* gain. ³⁷Turn my eyes away from looking at what is worthless, And revive me in Your ways. ³⁸Establish Your word to Your servant As that which produces reverence for You.

Psalms 119:33–38 (NASB 2020)

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Psalms 119:33–38 (NASB 2020)

2. Seek God's illumination (119:18-19, 24b)

A. He removes blindness (119:18)

B. He reveals His will (119:19)

C. He routes our way (119:24b)

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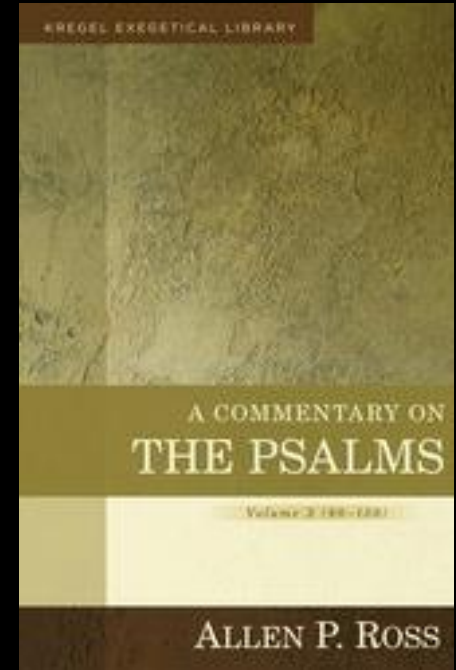
C. He routes our way (119:24b)

¹⁹I am a stranger on the earth; **Do not
hide** Your commandments from me.

Psalms 119:19 (NASB 2020)

²⁰My soul is crushed with longing
For Your ordinances at all times.
Psalm 119:20 (NASB 2020)

The prayer is for the continued revelation and illumination of God's word—instructions to guide him in his dangerous journey in the world... The emphasis is on the need for guidance and hope in this world—what does God want him to do, and what is God going to do?



¹“I permitted Myself to be sought by those who did not ask *for Me*; I permitted Myself to be found by those who did not seek Me. I said, ‘Here am I, here am I,’ To a nation which did not call on My name.

Isaiah 65:1 (NASB 2020)

Matthew 7:7-11

⁷“Ask, and it will be given to you;
seek, and you will find; knock, and it
will be opened to you.

⁸For everyone who asks receives,
and the one who seeks finds, and to
the one who knocks it will be opened.

⁹Or what person is there among you who, when his son asks for a loaf of bread, will give him a stone?

¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, he will not give him a snake, will he?

¹¹So if you, *despite* being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

Matthew 7:7–11 (NASB 2020)

Colossians 1:9-12

⁹For this reason we also, since the day we heard *about it*, have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding,

¹⁰so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please *Him* in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;

¹¹strengthened with all power,
according to His glorious might, for
the attaining of all perseverance and
patience; joyously

¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has
qualified us to share in the
inheritance of the saints in light.

Colossians 1:9–12 (NASB 2020)

¹Therefore I urge you, brothers *and sisters*, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. ²And do not be conformed to this world, **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is,** that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:1–2 (NASB 2020)

Glideslope (Vertical Guidance)



↓ 007°
14KT



Localizer (Horizontal Guidance)



¹²For now we see in a mirror dimly,
but then face to face; now I know in
part, but then I will know fully, just as
I also have been fully known.

1 Corinthians 13:12 (NASB 2020)

2. Seek God's illumination (119:18-19, 24b)

A. He removes blindness (119:18)

B. He reveals His will (119:19)

C. He routes our way (119:24b)

2. Seek God's illumination (119:18-19, 24b)

A. He removes blindness (119:18)

B. He reveals His will (119:19)

C. He routes our way (119:24b)

²⁴Your testimonies also are my
delight; *They are my advisers.*

Psalms 119:24 (NASB 2020)

²⁰My son, comply with the commandment of your father, And do not ignore the teaching of your mother; ²¹Bind them continually on your heart; Tie them around your neck. ²²**When you walk, they will guide you**; When you sleep, they will watch over you; And when you awake, they will talk to you. ²³For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; And rebukes for discipline are the way of life.

Proverbs 6:20–23 (NASB 2020)

³Do not trust in noblemen, In mortal man, in whom there is no salvation. ⁴His spirit departs, he returns to the earth; On that *very* day his plans perish. ⁵Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, Whose hope is in the LORD his God, ⁶Who made heaven and earth, The sea and everything that is in them; Who keeps faith forever;

Psalms 146:3–6 (NASB 2020)

⁵This is what the LORD says: “Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind And makes flesh his strength, And whose heart turns away from the LORD.

Jeremiah 17:5 (NASB 2020)

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart
And do not lean on your own
understanding.

⁶In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He will make your paths straight.

Proverbs 3:5–6 (NASB 2020)





³⁹“You examine the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is those *very Scriptures* that testify about Me; ⁴⁰and yet you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.

John 5:39–40 (NASB 2020)

²¹For you have been called for this purpose, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, **so that you would follow in His steps,**

1 Peter 2:21 (NASB 2020)

⁴The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; ⁵but whoever follows His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: ⁶the one who says that he remains in Him **ought, himself also, walk just as He walked.**

1 John 2:4–6 (NASB 2020)

Following our Sherpa

1. Live from your identity (119:17, 19, 23)
2. Seek God's illumination (119:18-19, 24b)
3. Trust despite _____ (119:21-23)

Following our Sherpa

1. Live from your identity (119:17, 19, 23)
2. Seek God's illumination (119:18-19, 24b)
3. Trust despite insults (119:21-23)

3. Trust despite insults (119:21-23)

A. God rebukes the proud (119:21)

B. God removes disgrace (119:22)

C. God reigns over rulers (119:23)

3. Trust despite insults (119:21-23)

A. God rebukes the proud (119:21)

B. God removes disgrace (119:22)

C. God reigns over rulers (119:23)

²¹You rebuke the arrogant, the
cursed, Who wander from Your
commandments.

Psalms 119:21 (NASB 2020)

¹¹So I will punish the world for its evil
And the wicked for their wrongdoing;
I will also put an end to the audacity
of the proud And humiliate the
arrogance of the tyrants.

Isaiah 13:11 (NASB 2020)

⁵You younger men, likewise, be subject to *your* elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT HE GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.

1 Peter 5:5 (NASB 2020)

¹But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. ²For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, **arrogant**, slanderers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good, ⁴treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, ⁵holding to a form of godliness although they have denied its power; *avoid such people as these.*

2 Timothy 3:1–5 (NASB 2020)

3. Trust despite insults (119:21-23)

A. God rebukes the proud (119:21)

B. God removes disgrace (119:22)

C. God reigns over rulers (119:23)

3. Trust despite insults (119:21-23)

A. God rebukes the proud (119:21)

B. God removes disgrace (119:22)

C. God reigns over rulers (119:23)

²²Take disgrace and contempt away
from me, For I comply with Your
testimonies.

Psalms 119:22 (NASB 2020)

⁶For *this* is contained in Scripture:
“BEHOLD, I AM LAYING IN ZION A CHOICE
STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNERSTONE,
AND THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM
WILL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME.”

1 Peter 2:6 (NASB 2020)

¹⁴But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, *you are* blessed. AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION, AND DO NOT BE TROUBLED, ¹⁵but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; ¹⁶and keep a good conscience **so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame.**

1 Peter 3:14–16 (NASB95)

²²Take disgrace and contempt away
from me, **For I comply with Your
testimonies.**

Psalms 119:22 (NASB 2020)

¹⁵Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; ¹⁶but if *anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.*

1 Peter 4:15–16 (NASB 2020)

¹¹“Blessed are you when *people* insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.

¹²Rejoice and be glad, **for your reward in heaven is great**; for in this same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:11–12 (NASB 2020)

3. Trust despite insults (119:21-23)

A. God rebukes the proud (119:21)

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3. Trust despite insults (119:21-23)

A. God rebukes the proud (119:21)

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²³Even though rulers sit *and* speak
against me, Your servant meditates
on Your statutes.

Psalms 119:23 (NASB 2020)

²The kings of the earth take their stand
And the rulers conspire together Against
the LORD and against His Anointed,
saying, ³“Let’s tear their shackles apart
And throw their ropes away from us!” ⁴He
who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord
scoffs at them.

Psalms 2:2–4 (NASB 2020)

¹²“I, I Myself, am He who comforts you. Who are you that you are afraid of mortal man, And of a son of man *who* is made *like* grass,

¹³That you have forgotten the LORD your Maker, Who stretched out the heavens And laid the foundations of the earth, That you fear continually all day long because of the fury of the oppressor, As he makes ready to destroy? And where is the rage of the oppressor?

Isaiah 51:12–13 (NASB 2020)

⁴“Now I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do.

⁵But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed *someone*, has *the* power to throw *that person* into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!

Luke 12:4–5 (NASB 2020)

³¹What then shall we say to these things?
If God *is* for us, who *is* against us? ³²He
who did not spare His own Son, but
delivered Him over for us all, how will He
not also with Him freely give us all things?
³³Who will bring charges against God's
elect? God is the one who justifies;

Romans 8:31–33 (NASB 2020)

Following our Sherpa

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Application

Application

Trust the One who walks ahead of you.
Stay on the path His Word lays out even
when it's hard. His way is always good, is
always faithful, and is always worth
following.