



# CONNEC ION

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## “Storing Up Gods Word in our Hearts”

- 8 I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me!  
9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word.  
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!  
13 With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth.  
14 In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.  
15 I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.  
16 I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word. (Psalm 119:9-16, ESV)

Psalm 119 is a remarkable chapter in the Bible in many ways. It is a carefully constructed acrostic poem in Hebrew. There is one stanza for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and every line in each stanza begins with that same letter. This also happens to be the longest chapter in the Bible.

The most remarkable thing of all is the what it teaches about the Word of God. The whole psalm is a devotional on the theme of Scripture. As we come alongside the psalmist, we share in his delight in the Bible. We discover what a great gift it is, and how God uses it to instruct us, bless us, and help us grow in our faith.

The word is a rich treasure, able to enlarge our hearts, grow our faith, and keep us from sin. But how do we take the Scripture into our hearts so that it will have it's transforming effect in us and on us? Two main ways are described in the stanza quoted above.

We are encouraged to store up God's word in our hearts. When we commit passages of Scripture to memory, they are always with us to guide us, and help us steer clear from sin.

We are encouraged to meditate on God's word. When we linger over a portion of Scripture, we patiently explore how it applies to us, and God might use it in our lives to guide our steps, to alert our consciences, or increase our praise.

This summer, I encourage you to meditate on this verse: *I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.* (Psalm 119: 11, ESV) If we allow this thought to become a part of us, and store it up in our hearts, we might find God using it to deepen our appreciation for His word. In our Bible reading, sometimes we need to slow down, and think deeply about something the Lord has spoken to us.

May God bless your meditations, and plant His word deeply within you!

Yours, in Christ,

Dave Eikenberry