

Psalm 119:41-48

Prayer and Resolutions: Things That Belong Together (Alec Motyer)

**Introduction:** This is the Waw (“and”) section of the Psalm, thus, Motyer’s title.

**1) Prayer requests based on God’s faithfulness—119:41-43**

- a) Fulfill Your promises so that I may respond rightly to persecution—119:41-42
  - i) What?
    - (1) Underlying commitment: <sup>41</sup> *May Your lovingkindnesses [chesed, plural] (manifestations of loyal love) also come to me, O Yahweh,*
    - (2) Specific activity: *Your salvation [teshuah] according to Your word [imrah];*
      - (a) Rescue is only needed when we are in imminent danger.
  - ii) Why? <sup>42</sup> *so I will have an answer [dabar] for him who reproaches (verbally abuses) [harap] me, for I trust [batach] in Your word [dabar].*
    - (1) Instead of being overwhelmed or confused by the critic, the maturing believer has utmost confidence in God’s Word and will be enabled to refute or rebuke the critic.
  - iii) Our trust is rooted in God’s communication in His Word.
- b) Maintain my hope—119:43
  - i) Keep me talking about Your Word (to myself in meditation and others as a witness): <sup>43</sup> *And do not take away the word of truth [dabar emet] (trustworthiness) utterly from my mouth,*
  - ii) Why? *for I wait [yachal] for Your judgments [mishpat].*
  - iii) Our hope is rooted in God’s communication in His Word.

**2) Resolutions based on the consequences of the earlier prayers—119:44-48**

- If we expect God to keep His Word, we should also expect ourselves to keep His Word.
- a) **Externally**—119:44-46
    - i) I will deliberately pursue consistent obedience—119:44
      - (1) <sup>44</sup> *So I will keep [shamar] (pay careful attention to) Your law [torah] continually, forever and ever.*
      - (2) Perpetual fidelity to God’s Word is the bull’s-eye of his target. (George Zemek)
    - ii) I will live a life of liberty—119:45
      - (1) <sup>45</sup> *And I will walk [halak] in a wide place [rachab],*

- (a) I am preoccupied: *for I seek [daryosh] Your precepts [piqqudim]*.
- (2) The unbelieving world looks at Christianity as a worldview of bondage and boredom.
- iii) I will speak of God's accomplishments with courage—119:46
- (1) <sup>46</sup> *I will also speak [dabar] of Your testimonies [edah] before kings and I shall not be ashamed (humiliated) [bosh]*.
- (a) We will never be let down by our God because He fails to fulfill His Word.
- (2) The psalmist seems to be a priest or prophet who has access to the king.
- b) **Internally**; personal satisfaction—119:47-48
- These particular consequences would not be received as new experiences but as continuing fortifications flowing from the LORD through the conduit of the Word to the inner man. (George Zemek)
- i) I will focus my pleasure—119:47
- (1) <sup>47</sup> *I shall delight [sha'a] in Your commandments [mitsvah], which I love [ahab]*.
- (a) The boldness of 119:46 flows from his delight in God's Word.
- (2) **Our love for God's Word is demonstrated by delighting in and doing God's Will.**
- ii) I will focus my love for God's Word—119:48
- (1) Longing—119:48a
- (a) <sup>48</sup> *And I shall lift up my hands to Your commandments [mitsvah], which I love [ahab];*
- (b) Lifting hands in longing desire expressed by stretching out the hands for something.
- (2) Meditation (internal conversation)—119:48b
- (a) *and I will muse [siach] on Your statutes [choq]*.
- 3) Things to remember:**
- a) The psalmist's confidence is firmly fixed in God's revelation of himself by his word. (Allen Harman)
- b) It is surely hypocritical to pray for God to fulfill his promises in the word and not be committed to obeying that same word. (Allen Ross)