



## Psalm 119:161-168 “Those Who Love Your Law Have Great Peace”

### **Intro (V.161):**

This section of Psalm 119 is one of only two sections where the psalmist makes no direct request (The other being “Meme”). Although the psalmist still finds himself in trouble He is at rest in God and verse 161 tells us why. If this were an email the psalmist were writing to God, verse 161 would be the subject line: [**“Princes persecute me without cause, but my heart stands in awe (fear) of Your Words”**]. Those in power and authority are persecuting, pursuing, and pressuring the Psalmist. Yet instead of letting this fill his heart with fear and anxiety, he has great peace (verse 165) **because the psalmist has learned to fear God rather than man**. It seems that the spiritual revival he had been praying for has now taken root. His heart is so anchored in God’s Word that he no longer asks for deliverance but instead rejoices in God’s Word and the peace that treasuring it has brought to his life. Our goal this week is to observe the steps the Psalmist has taken to truly love God’s Word and do the same, so we may experience the great peace that comes with learning to fear God over man.

### **V.162-164**

**“I rejoice at Your word, As one who finds great spoil. I hate and despise falsehood, But I love Your law. Seven times a day I praise You, Because of Your righteous ordinances.”**

#### **1. Rejoice At God’s Word**

The phrase “as one who finds great spoil” helps us understand how we are to rejoice at God’s Word. “Spoil” refers to treasure gained after battle. In other words, *the riches of God’s Word are often fought for*. We must fight distractions, tiredness, busyness, and temptation to truly sit with Scripture. But that is precisely why the rejoicing is so great. We treasure what we fight for. Through the Spirit, we wrestle against the pull of the flesh, press into God’s Word, and when we uncover its riches, our hearts rejoice.

#### **2. Hate Falsehood**

The psalmist not only loves truth — he hates falsehood. It may be that his refusal to participate in deceit is the reason princes persecute him. Many times, pressure from authority tempts us to compromise or act in deceitful ways. But a life built on deceit is full of anxiety — always hiding, always fearing exposure. When we hate falsehood and walk in accordance to the truth of God’s Word, we experience freedom and peace. Integrity removes the fear of being found out.

#### **3. Love God’s Word**

To love something means to prioritize it. **To love God’s Word is to make a conscious decision that everything else is less important**. To be willing to sacrifice anything else if need be but never sacrifice time with and obedience to the Word of God. Loving the Word is not a feeling but a PRACTICE. It shapes our schedule, our decisions, and our loyalties. Peace grows where love for God’s Word grows.

#### **4. Praise Him Completely**

In Hebrew thought, the number seven signifies completeness. When the psalmist says he praises God seven times a day, **he is describing a life of continual praise**. Not just moments of worship, but a posture of thankfulness throughout the day. *This kind of praise trains the heart to notice God’s goodness*. And when we constantly rehearse His faithfulness, we learn to rest in His sovereignty instead of reacting in fear.

### **V.165**

**“Those who love Your law have great peace, And nothing causes them to stumble.”**

- In the midst of persecution from powerful people, the psalmist has great peace because he loves God’s law. The Hebrew word translated “awe” in verse 161 is *pahad*, meaning fear or reverent dread. The psalmist knows whom he fears — God. The question is simple: whom do we fear more? God or man? Peace comes when our reverence for God outweighs our fear of people. When we honor Him above all, we are stabilized. We are not easily shaken.

**V.166-168**

**“I hope for Your salvation, O Lord, And do Your commandments. My soul keeps Your testimonies, And I love them exceedingly. I keep Your precepts and Your testimonies, For all my ways are before You.”**

**5. Hope For His Salvation**

The psalmist does not place his hope in improved circumstances, financial security, or human approval. He places his hope in God’s salvation. In light of Christ, we see this even more clearly. Our hope is not in trials disappearing, but in the salvation and eternal life secured by Jesus. Peace grows when our hope is anchored in what Christ has accomplished, not in what we wish would change.

**6. Obey, From The Soul**

It’s as simple as doing what God says. We constantly make excuses and run circles around it yet if we just apply God’s principles to our life we would experience great peace and be kept from stumbling. Yet mere outward obedience is not enough. We must obey from a the soul! Our outward obedience must come from a heart that has surrendered and lives submitted to Christ and His word. Your soul needs to be in obedience and peace with God for you to truly experience His peace.

**7. Live Before God**

“For all my ways are before You.” The psalmist lives with the awareness that God sees everything. This produces integrity. Not a double life. Not hiding. Not performing. Living consciously before God removes hypocrisy. And when there is nothing to hide, there is nothing to fear.

**Conclusion and Main Idea:**

**\*\*\*READ DANIEL6\*\*\*** One of the clearest pictures of this section of Psalm 119 is found in the well-known story of Daniel in the lions’ den. Daniel was pressured and persecuted by powerful people who conspired against him out of jealousy, even though he had done nothing wrong. Since they could find no fault in his life, their plan was to turn his obedience to God against him and make it illegal. Daniel knew the decree had been signed. He knew the consequences. And yet Scripture tells us that he went home, opened his windows toward Jerusalem, and prayed just as he had done previously. No panic. No secrecy. No compromise. He did not run to appeal to King Darius or anxiously try to create a plan to reverse the situation. Instead, he went before the One he knew to be most powerful of all. He went to God—whom he constantly served and before whom he lived. Daniel did not give in to the falsehood of living a double life, but proved by his actions whom he loved and feared most. Daniel feared God more than his persecutors, more than the king, and even more than the lions’ den. This was possible because, as we see in Daniel 6:10, Daniel lived in a constant relationship with God. He loved Him and His Word, and everything else in life was secondary. Therefore, when the trial came, he knew to whom he belonged and remained at peace knowing whom he served. While the king spent the night fasting and losing sleep, Daniel rested in peace. Why? Because peace does not come from the absence of danger—it comes from the presence of God.

**Memory Verse:**

“Those who love Your law have great peace, And nothing causes them to stumble.” Psalms 119:165 NASB1995

**Reflection Questions:**

1. What voices, pressures, or authorities most influence your decisions right now, and how do they compare with the authority God’s Word holds in your life? In what ways is Jesus calling you to fear God above man in this season?
2. How does the gospel remind you that your security rests not in outcomes, but in what Jesus has already accomplished?
  - 3. Where might you be tempted to live a “double life”—faithful in appearance but compromised in practice? How does Jesus’ perfect obedience and grace invite you into integrity rather than hiding?



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