

# Lesson 11

## The Inner Life Part 2 (Psalms 119:81-176)

1. Read Psalm 119:81–88. What sort of circumstance does the psalmist describe in these verses? What sort of persecution did the Israelites face? What are examples of persecution that Christians face today, both in America and around the world? What message does this passage have for all who suffer from persecution?
2. Choose one verse or phrase from Psalm 119:81–176 that stands out to you. This could be something you're intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further. Write that here.
3. Read Psalm 119:96. Why is this such a rich verse? What does it tell us about God's character? What does it suggest to us about how we ought to approach the life of faith God has granted us?
4. What are some of the more common Bible study tools? How can they help with the study of Scripture? What does the psalmist mean when he writes, "For you yourself have taught me" (v. 102)? How does God speak to us directly through His Word?
5. Circle the assurances in Psalm 119:113–120 that help us face our battles with the enemy. How do these help us avoid discouragement in trying times? Why does the psalmist repeat how much he loves God's laws (or statutes)? What does that mean for Christians today?

6. Read Psalm 119:133. What does “according to your word” mean in practical terms? Why is it so difficult to trust God’s timing? How does the psalmist illustrate the ache that accompanies those times when the law is not obeyed?
7. What is the redemption the psalmist is asking for in Psalm 119:134? In what ways are Christians oppressed today? How does God respond to that oppression?
8. Read verses 140–141. What does it mean that God’s promises have been “thoroughly tested”? Why does the psalmist say he is “lowly and despised”? In what ways are Christians today looked upon as lowly? How does this compare to the way God sees us?
9. What are the key instructions in verses 145–152 on prayer? What does the fact that the psalmist was praying throughout the entire psalm tell us about prayer? What does the phrase “My eyes stay open through the watches of the night” suggest about prayer?
10. What are the clues that illustrate the psalmist’s urgency in the last verses of Psalm 119? What are some of the urgent things that compel the church today? In what ways is such urgency a good thing? What are the risks or dangers of reacting out of urgency?
11. Have you ever felt persecuted for your beliefs? Describe the circumstances. How did you respond to that persecution? What role did your study of God’s Word play in dealing with persecution? What did you learn through that experience?
12. What tools do you use for serious Bible study? How do they help you get to know God and His Word? How successful has your study been when you’ve been distant from God’s will? When you’ve been close? What does this tell you about the best way (and time) to study God’s Word? About the importance of seeking God even when you don’t feel like it?

13. Describe a time when you had to wait on God for something. Perhaps this is something you're still waiting on. How do you respond to the silence of God? What has that waiting done for your relationship with God? What are some of the things you've learned in that process?
  
14. Think of one or two things that you have learned that you'd like to work on in the coming week. Remember that this is all about quality, not quantity. It's better to work on one specific area of life and do it well than to work on many and do poorly (or to be so overwhelmed that you simply don't try). **Do you need to learn to trust God's timing? Be specific. Go back through Psalm 119:81–176 and put a star next to the phrase or verse that is most encouraging to you.**
  
15. Write a prayer below (or simply pray one in silence), inviting God to work on your mind and heart in those areas you've previously noted. Be honest about your desires and fears.