

Psal m 119
week 13, v.123-124

What are you waiting for? Think anticipation, expectation, looking forward to something. It could be a baby's birth, a move, a change of seasons, a wedding or special event you will attend, graduation from school, a child's successful potty training 😊 Sometimes, in our eyes, these things don't happen soon enough; we feel like we're waiting forever. **Have you heard these words from a child: Are we there yet?**

Ps 119:123 My eyes fail [with longing] for Thy salvation, And for Thy righteous word.

think consumed, wasted with desire; physically spent, longing for God

Ps 119:81-82 My soul languishes for Thy salvation; I wait for Thy word. 82 My eyes fail [with longing] for Thy word, while I say, "When wilt Thou comfort me?"

Ps 69:3 I am weary with my crying; my throat is parched; my eyes fail while I wait for my God.

Ps 130:6 My soul [waits] for the Lord more than the watchmen for the morning; [Indeed, more than] the watchmen for the morning.

Questions to think about in this verse:

Where does the Psalmist go for help?

David is weary of waiting. **How do we respond when God's timing is not our timing?**

What is David waiting for?

David is not only longing for God's promise of salvation to be fulfilled but also for His righteousness to avenge him of his accusers. This goes back again to the thought in verse 121 of a clear conscience. The integrity of David's heart allows him to stand in the confidence of God's judgment of himself and those who have persecuted him.

The posture here described is that of an individual who perceives himself surrounded with enemies of the most formidable character, who feels his own weakness and insufficiency to enter into conflict with them, but who is eagerly looking for the arrival of a devoted and powerful friend who has promised to succour him in the hour of his calamity. As his friend delays the hour of his coming, his fears and anxieties multiply, till he finds himself in the condition of one whose eyes fail and grow dim in looking for the approach of his great deliverer.

John Morison

We have choices when we get tired and weary. We can give up because it's too hard or we've decided it's not worth the wait or we can look to God for perseverance to stay on course.

Ps 27:14 Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the LORD.

Ps 37:7 Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who carries out wicked schemes.

Mic 7:7 But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me.

Ps 25:21 Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for Thee.

Isa 30:18 Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, and therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.

Let's not overlook what the Psalmist is anticipating in verse 123. When our hopes, our longing, our desires, our expectations are put on worldly things we *will* be disappointed! Expect it! We live in a fallen world where sin reigns. Hardship is reality yet joy is abundant, even in the midst of the most difficult circumstances, to the child of God who looks to their future in heaven.

Ps 119:124 Deal with Thy servant according to Thy lovingkindness, and teach me Thy statutes.

Where does the Psalmist go for instruction?

We have incredible resources available to us because of the advancement of technology. We can get directions on how to do almost anything, even step by step tutorials. But what about life decisions? How do we know when we are to turn right or left; or back up or fast forward or be still? Who are we listening to for advice?

In Ps 119:124, David is appealing to God for mercy: "deal with Thy servant according to Thy lovingkindness". We can't claim God's mercy with confidence if we don't know Him. The Psalmist understands his relationship with God – he is the bondservant, God is the Master.

What is God's mercy?

mercy <checked> kindness, favor, lovingkindness

God's mercy has been shown to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ (Lu 1:78). His mercy is seen in salvation (Tit 3:5). God's mercy is demonstrated through His patience (Neh 9:17). The mercy of God is seen in forgiveness (Jer 3:12; Isa 55:7).

God's kindness towards His children is abundant:

Nu 14:18 'The LORD is slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He will by no means clear [the guilty,] visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth [generations.]'

Eph 2:4-7 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶ and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly [places], in Christ Jesus, ⁷ in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ps 86:5;15 For Thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive, And abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon Thee. ¹⁵ But Thou, O Lord, art a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness and truth.

God's mercies towards His children are forever:

Psalm 136

La 3:22-23 The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. ²³ [They] are new every morning; Great is Thy faithfulness.

How can we apply the truth of Ps 119:124?

1. We turn towards God.
2. We turn towards God with a humble heart.
3. We turn towards God with a humble heart confident of His mercy towards us.
4. We turn towards God with a humble heart confident of His mercy towards us, desiring to understand His will.

How will God answer this prayer?

Joh 7:17 "If any man is willing to do His will, he shall know of the teaching, whether it is of God, or [whether] I speak from Myself.

Ps 25:14 The secret of the LORD is for those who fear Him, And He will make them know His covenant.

Mt 13:11 And He answered and said to them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.

Joh 14:21 "He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me; and he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will disclose Myself to him."

God will fully quench our need for His mercy; He will give us understanding of His precepts, and He is desiring to instruct us to do His will for His glory!