

A close-up photograph of a lit diya (oil lamp) with a bright flame. The diya is made of a dark, textured material, possibly metal or wood, and is placed on a wooden surface. The background is dark, making the flame and the diya stand out. The text "NUN" is overlaid in white at the top, and "Psalm 119:105-112" is overlaid in white at the bottom.

**NUN**

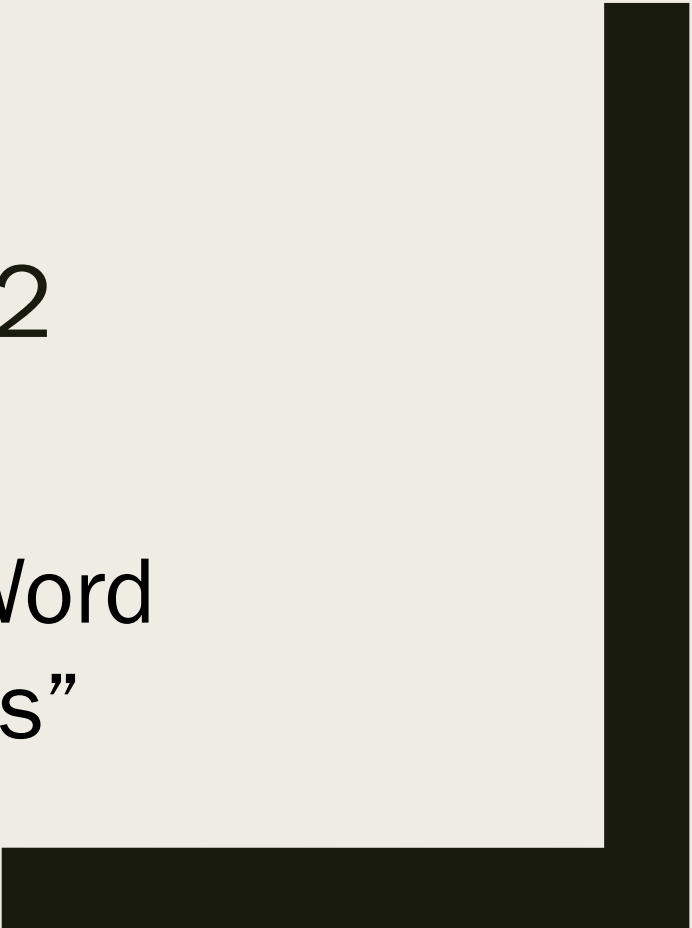
**Psalm 119:105-112**



# NUN



Psalm 119:105-112

“A Vow of Fidelity to the Word  
Under All Circumstances”



NUN  
(Ps. 119:105–112)



Letter Name	Early Hebrew	Middle Hebrew	Late Hebrew	Modern Hebrew
NUN				

**Pictograph:**

**Meanings:**

**Sound:**

Sprouting Seed

Continue, Heir, Son

N

<sup>105</sup> Your word *is* a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

<sup>106</sup> I have sworn and confirmed That I will keep Your righteous judgments.

<sup>107</sup> I am afflicted very much; Revive me, O LORD, according to Your word.

<sup>108</sup> Accept, I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, And teach me Your judgments.

109 My life *is* continually in my hand, Yet I do not forget Your law.

110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, Yet I have not strayed from Your precepts.

111 Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, For they *are* the rejoicing of my heart.

112 I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes Forever, to the very end.

- I. The psalmist knows the value of God's law as a guide for life and resolves to keep it (105–106)
- II. He laments his present affliction and calls for divine help (107–110).
- III. He joyfully will follow God's testimonies (111–112).

The psalmist knows the value of God's law as the guide for life and resolves to keep it

**(Psa 119:105–106)**

**THE BENEFITS DESCRIBED** Psa 119:105

Your word *is* a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Your word – the entirety of the Word of God



There are two metaphors in this verse: “A *lamp* to my feet, a *light* to my path.”

The comparison of the word of God to a “light” and a “lamp” indicates that divine revelation brings spiritual guidance for the faithful who live according to it.

The figures of “foot” and “path” refer to the believer’s walk, the usual behavior in life.

The image of light in the Bible also has the connotation of joy and happiness in life.

The world is enveloped in darkness because of the presence of evil and what it produces.

The concern here is for truth for moral choices and not secular guidance, as in the choice of a career, although the Word can give wisdom even in these choices.

**lamp** נֵיר (nîr) *lamp*, a small clay lantern with a solitary wick.



# Your Word is a lamp to my feet

The psalmist describes the Word of God as a lamp carried on his journey to illuminate the way and keep him from stumbling and going astray.

The light of God's Word allows us to see the right direction. It is God's guidance for our travels through life on earth.

light אור ('or) light.

The light here is illumination in the soul, understanding of God's will and God's provision.

<sup>130</sup> The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.

Psalm 19 compares the written Scriptures with nature and the sun in particular. The commandments of the Lord are said to enlighten the eyes (v. 8).

Israel is told “to walk in the light of the Lord” i.e., to adhere to the revelation of God (Isa 2:5; cf. 51:4)

The lamp and light metaphors presuppose surrounding darkness, a description of the environment in which we all live. The lamp and the light are found together in Proverbs 6:

<sup>22</sup> When you roam, they will lead you; When you sleep, they will keep you; And *when* you awake, they will speak with you. <sup>23</sup> For the commandment *is a lamp*, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life,

The reference to the feet is specific; the reference to the path is general.

God's Word gives us light for specific situations, and it also gives light for the course of life in general.

## **THE OATH Psa 119:106**

**Psalm 119:106** I have sworn and confirmed That I will keep Your righteous judgments.

This verse opens with the psalmist saying he has taken an oath of obedience that has been confirmed.

Further emphasis on this truth is made in Psa 119:112 where he tells us the oath will be kept forever, even to the end.



This oath had been very costly:

He was *exceedingly afflicted* because of it (107),

and his life was *continually in (his) hand* (109)

because *the wicked have laid a snare for (him)* (110).

Because God's Word is a light, and lamp the psalmist has taken an oath to obey it. Two verbs express his determination to obey God's Word.

I have sworn שָׁבַע (shaba') swear, adjure, to bind oneself by oath to do something; to faithfully perform a promised deed, or faithfully refrain from some evil act.

Confirmed קָוַם (qum) arise, stand, make strong. This word is used in the context of vows in the Old Testament and means *to confirm* or *to validate*. It is an intensive stem—I solemnly swear before God and the world. It essentially says, “I have sworn and ratified it.”

Ecc 5:2 Do not be rash with your mouth, And let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; Therefore let your words be few.

3 ¶ For a dream comes through much activity, And a fool's voice is known by his many words.

4 ¶ When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; For He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed--

5 Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.

6 Do not let your mouth cause your flesh to sin, nor say before the messenger of God that it was an error. Why should God be angry at your excuse and destroy the work of your hands?

The important part of the oath is what he swore to do: *“I will keep your righteous judgments.”* These “judgments,” (the laws of God) were rulings that would guide him in right choices. He took an oath to live according to the Word of God.

It is a foundational part of a believer’s life to determine to obey the Lord.

The psalmist is saying, “I will learn God’s Word, I will obey God’s Word, I will keep God’s Word, I will defend God’s Word, and I will cherish God’s Word.”

II. He laments his present affliction and calls for divine help (Psa 119:107–110).

**THE COST of the OATH 119:107**

**Psalm 119:107** I am afflicted very much; Revive me, O LORD, according to Your word.

## **Afflicted** עָנָה (*'anah*)

The primary meaning is “to force,” or “to try to force submission,” and “to punish or inflict pain upon,” The psalmist is *very afflicted*.

**Very much** מְאֹד (*mě'ōd*) *exceedingly, much*

How intense is the pressure? The words *revive me* tell us.

Revive me חַיָּה (chayah) live, have life, remain alive, sustain life, live prosperously, live forever. Also be quickened, revive from sickness, discouragement, or even death.

His affliction was so great he did not think he would live through it. He is asking the Lord to sustain him in his time of suffering. His prayer is that he would be strengthened to endure the suffering. Sustain me.

Revive me according to Your word.

It is the Word of God that will sustain you in the crisis.

according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain (Phil 1:20-21).



## THE WORSHIP OFFERED Psa 119:108

**Psalm 119:108** Accept, I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, And teach me Your judgments.

Accept, I pray, רָצָה (ratsah)

be pleased with, be favorable to; in the special sense “to be favorably received” as to the ritual cleanliness of offerings.

the freewill offerings of my mouth נְדָבָה (nedabah)  
freewill offering. This noun represents sacrifice made  
“out of devotion;” it is not a required offering.

In the midst of all of the affliction, by means of his  
prayers, the psalmist brought freewill offerings to the  
LORD, which here are called *freewill offerings of his  
mouth*.

This is clearly a reference to praises, (cf. Heb. 13:15).

A freewill offering of the mouth is a prayer of praise and thanksgiving. God desires heart-felt obedience (I Sam 15:22; Hos 6:6) more than a multitude of sacrifices (Amos 4:5).

“A thanksgiving offering” expressed gratitude for grace, for blessings and for answers to prayer (Lev. 7:11–15). The Israelites made freewill offerings spontaneously out of gratitude to God (Lev. 7:16; 22:17–19).

His desire to make such an offering in the midst of extreme affliction is a wonderful illustration of Romans 5:3, “we glory in tribulations. ...”

His prayer is that God would be pleased with his sacrifices of praise, that is, accept them. If God accepts his praise, God may be favorably disposed toward answering his prayer for sustaining him in his affliction.

The psalmist does not simply want a deliverance from his affliction; he wants to know the LORD better; and so he also prays, “teach me your judgments”.

# **teach me Your judgments**

This is part of the Word being a lamp and a light, for following the LORD will open up other areas that need to be addressed as well.

The more you know about the plan of God, the more you realize that you still need more teaching.

# **THE ENEMY CONSIDERED** Psa 119:109–110

**Psalm 119:109** My life *is* continually in my hand,  
Yet I do not forget Your law.

My life *is* continually in my hand.

What does it mean for his life (soul) to be in his hand? It means to be in danger for one's life.

Judges 12:3; 1 Samuel 19:5, 28:21; Job 13:14 interpret the expression. The expression means to put your own life at risk.

This refers to the great risk and peril he has brought on himself by his life of faith.

# Yet I do not forget Your law

He declares that he has not forgotten God's law, meaning he has remained consciously obedient to it.

In the midst of this condition, he is unmoved in his devotion to the Word of God. No set of circumstances could be so bad as to justify disobedience, nor could the affliction be so great as to modify his priorities. No matter what happens, the Word of God must reign supreme.



25 “For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

26 “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?”

Matt 16:25–26

**Psalm 119:110** The wicked have laid a snare for me, Yet I have not strayed from Your precepts.

His enemies have made plans to bring about his fall. The danger is great and life threatening. He has not concealed his faith, but lived openly in accordance with God's laws. In this verse he clarifies that wicked people have set a trap for him, which explains the hazards he faced by living faithfully.

The *snare* is a bird trap, like a net. The word is often used figuratively for calamities and plots.

His enemies have been trying to find ways to ruin the psalmist, or at least his integrity. However, they have not been successful.

The wicked with all their devices have not succeeded in making him wander from God's precepts.

Yet I have not strayed from Your precepts. Wandering away from the precepts signifies falling into sinful disobedience, not following the light for the pathway.

His spiritual success is a constant struggle. Because he has been seriously afflicted, meaning he has suffered greatly, he prays for God to revive his life (v. 107). Every affliction brings him nearer to death, as Psa 119:81–88 made clear; and so he prays for his life to be revived and renewed.

### **III. He joyfully will follow God's testimonies (Psa 119:111–112)**

The last two verses of this meditation record some of the blessings that come from living a life devoted to obeying the LORD.

The psalmist restates his commitment by saying “I have inclined my heart” to keep God’s statutes (v. 112). He has determined to do it; and the reward is never ending. Keeping the law is reward in itself, because it brings blessings to the faithful, both now and in the world to come.

## **THE JOY STATED** Psa 119:111

**Psalm 119:111** Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, For they *are* the rejoicing of my heart.

“I have inherited your testimonies forever.” An inheritance was a great thing, something many hoped to obtain in the future. But the psalmist already has his—his eternal inheritance is the Word of God.

**Heritage** נָחַל (nachal) inherit, possess. The verb basically signifies giving or receiving property, which carries with it a connotation of permanence.

The psalmist says that he has inherited God's testimonies forever. He knows them and believes them. And the benefits are eternal.

The Word of the LORD is eternal and always dependable—it brings salvation and joy to the believer.

For they *are* the rejoicing of my heart.

Obedience to God's Word was never seen as a drudgery; to him it was a life of joy and blessing.



## **THE OATH REAFFIRMED Psa 119:112**

**Psalm 119:112** I have inclined my heart to perform  
Your statutes Forever, to the very end.

The psalmist could easily relieve the pressure brought by his enemies if he would but loosen his grip on the Word of God, but compromise on that issue is not even a consideration.

I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes

inclined נָטָה (*natah*) extend, stretch out, incline,  
bend, bow.

The heart may be “inclined” to God and his command, that is, to obey (Josh 24:23; I Kgs 8:58; Ps 119:36). A common expression is “to incline the ear” (i.e., listen obediently) in reference to men paying heed to God (Jer 7:24, 26; 11:8; 17:23),

Forever, to the very end. עוֹלָם (‘olam) forever

In verse 111 he said that the testimonies were his inheritance forever. He uses the same word here to confirm his oath to obey the Word forever.

to the very end עֵקֶב ('equeb) this word can mean the end, but it can also mean a reward as a consequence.

“I have inclined my heart” to keep God’s statutes forever, to the very end.

He has determined to do it; and the reward is never ending. Keeping the Word is reward in itself, because it brings blessings to the faithful believer, both now and in the world to come.