

The Disciplines of a Godly Life: Meditation

Psalm 119: The Word Filled Life – A Life of New Beginnings

God's Word offers us a life of new beginnings.
The ultimate new beginning is called the new birth or being born again.
Being born again is by God's Word. Please turn there with me:

1 Peter 1:22-25

Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, because

"All flesh is as grass,

And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass.

The grass withers,

And its flower falls away,

But the word of the Lord endures forever."

Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

Teach us Lord the reality of the new beginning we have in Your Word, Your new birth!

Now turn back with me to Luke 24:44-45: Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in –

"The Law of Moses" and...

"The Prophets" and...

"The Psalms"

... concerning Me." And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend **THE SCRIPTURES**.

There are twenty-two letters in the Hebrew alphabet.
There are twenty-two books in the Hebrew canon.

Those 22 books were decided¹ by the council of 120 that Ezra convened.

After he copied the letters of the entire Old Testament, Ezra gathered a council of the godly men of Israel. They agreed upon the books of the Old Testament that had been in the care of the prophets and priests for a thousand years. Then they arranged them in the three-fold division we see in Christ's ministry.

The original 22 Canonized OT was divided up into 3 parts.

TaNaKh

- 1) The Law (Torah)
- 2) The Prophets (Nevi'im)
- 3) The Holy Writings (Keturim)

Another common name for the third section would be "THE PSALMS" because Psalms was the book that headed off this "Royal Division."

Let me list the division and their books for you.

1st THE LAW (TORAH)

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy

2nd THE PROPHETS

6. Joshua AND Judges
7. The Book of Kingdoms (Samuel and Kings)
8. Isaiah
9. Jeremiah
10. Ezekiel
11. The Twelve (Hosea to Malachi)

¹ Melito (170 A.D.), in agreement with the original Jewish reckoning, gave the number of Old Testament books as 22. (Eusebius, Eccl. Hist., 4.26.14); Origen (210 A.D.), "It should be stated that the canonical books, as the Hebrews have handed them down, are twenty-two; corresponding with the number of their letters." (Eusebius, Eccl. Hist.); Hilary of Poitiers (360 A.D.), "The Law of the Old Testament is considered as divided into twenty-two books, so as to correspond to the number of letters." (Tractate on Psalms, prologue 15); Athanasius (365 A.D.), "There are then of the Old Testament twenty-two books in number ... this is the number of the letters among the Hebrews." (Letter 39.4); The Council of Laodicea (343-391 A.D.), Twenty-two books. (Canon 60); Cyril of Jerusalem (386 A.D.), "Read the divine scriptures, the twenty-two books of the Old Testament." (Catechetical Lectures 2, 4.33); Gregory of Nazianzus (390 A.D.), "I have exhibited twenty-two books, corresponding with the twenty-two letters of the Hebrews." (Carmina, 1.12); Jerome (410 A.D.), "That the Hebrews have twenty-two letters is testified ... as there are twenty-two elementary characters by means of which we write in Hebrew all we say ... so we reckon twenty-two books by which ... a righteous man is instructed." (Preface to the Books of Samuel and Kings); Synopsis of Sacred Scripture (c. 500 A.D.), "The canonical books of the Old Testament are twenty-two, equal in number to the Hebrew letters; for they have so many original letters."; Peter of Cluny (1150 A.D.): Twenty-two books. (Edward Reuss, Canon of the Holy Scriptures, p.257)

3rd THE HOLY WRITINGS (or THE PSALMS because it was the first book in the collection in this "Royal Division")

12. The Psalms
13. The Proverbs
14. Job
15. Song of Songs
16. Ruth
17. Lamentations
18. Ecclesiastes
19. Esther
20. Daniel
21. Ezra-Nehemiah
22. The Book of Chronicles

So almost 500 years later, even Jesus Christ acknowledged Ezra's work when He referred to the above books with their divisions as Scripture.

When Ezra finished this monumental work he sat to write his testimony in a song.

Psalm 119 is the Psalm or Song of the Word filled life.

A song of the never ending grace of God that offers us a new beginning every time we open our hearts to His Word.

We get sanctified, we get revived, we get renewed.

Psalm 119 also has 22 verses because there were 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet.

God wanted to say that His Truth exhausts the capacity of language to express it.

God has used up every letter He can use to get His message to us. He loves us, offers us Himself, and wants us to know Him.

There are 8 verses in each of the 22 stanzas.

Remember the picture of the number 7? There are 7 days and then the week starts over; there are seven notes and then the musical scale starts over; there are seven colors and then the spectrum of color starts over.

Eight to a Jewish mind meant 'a new beginning'. The completion of seven and the starting over again in the 8th is the declaration of a new beginning.

So in each stanza God declares -- I am exhausting the alphabet, I am exhausting human language, I am using every means possible.

I want to tell you that my offer is -- a new beginning, a new hope, a new peace, a new joy, and a new power to live.

That new beginning is clearly described by Ezra's use of the word **chayah**. **Revive me** (impv-# 2421: to preserve alive, let live; to give life; to quicken, revive, refresh; to restore to life; to cause to grow)

A NEW BEGINNING IN OBEDIENCE: Psalm 119:17 Deal bountifully with Your servant, That I may live and **keep Your word**.

A NEW BEGINNING IN THE ONLY LASTING HELP: Psalm 119:25 My soul clings to the dust; Revive me **according to Your word**.

A NEW BEGINNING IN WHAT IS WORTH LIVING FOR: Psalm 119:37 Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, And revive me **in Your way**.

A NEW BEGINNING IN HOPE FOR MY TROUBLES: Psalm 119:50 This is my comfort in my affliction, **For Your word** has given me life.

A NEW BEGINNING IN ASSURANCE OF GOD: Psalm 119:77 **Let Your tender mercies come to me**, that I may live; For Your law is my delight.

A NEW BEGINNING IN TRUSTING THE LORD: Psalm 119:88 Revive me **according to Your lovingkindness**, So that I may keep the testimony of Your mouth.

A NEW BEGINNING IN SPIRITUAL RENEWAL: Psalm 119:93 **I will never forget Your precepts**, For by them You have given me life.

A NEW BEGINNING IN STRENGTH: Psalm 119:107 I am afflicted very much; Revive me, O Lord, according to Your word.

A NEW BEGINNING IN BOLDNESS: Psalm 119:116 Uphold me according to Your word, that I may live; And do not let me be ashamed of my hope.

A NEW BEGINNING IN UNDERSTANDING GOD'S PLAN: Psalm 119:144 The righteousness of Your testimonies is everlasting; Give me understanding, and I shall live.

A NEW BEGINNING IN PATIENCE: Psalm 119:149 Hear my voice according to Your lovingkindness; O Lord, revive me according to Your justice.

A NEW BEGINNING IN THE WORD: Psalm 119:154 Plead my cause and redeem me; Revive me according to Your word.

A NEW BEGINNING IN REPENTANCE: Psalm 119:156 Great are Your tender mercies, O Lord; Revive me according to Your judgments.

A NEW BEGINNING IN LOVE: Psalm 119:159 Consider how I love Your precepts; Revive me, O Lord, according to Your lovingkindness.

A NEW BEGINNING IN PRAISE: Psalm 119:175 Let my soul live, and it shall praise You; And let Your judgments help me.

A NEW BEGINNING IN OBEDIENCE:
A NEW BEGINNING IN THE ONLY LASTING HELP:
A NEW BEGINNING IN WHAT IS WORTH LIVING FOR:
A NEW BEGINNING IN HOPE FOR MY TROUBLES:
A NEW BEGINNING IN ASSURANCE OF GOD:
A NEW BEGINNING IN TRUSTING THE LORD
A NEW BEGINNING IN SPIRITUAL RENEWAL:
A NEW BEGINNING IN STRENGTH:
A NEW BEGINNING IN BOLDNESS:
A NEW BEGINNING IN UNDERSTANDING GOD'S PLAN:
A NEW BEGINNING IN PATIENCE:
A NEW BEGINNING IN THE WORD:
A NEW BEGINNING IN REPENTANCE:
A NEW BEGINNING IN LOVE:.
A NEW BEGINNING IN PRAISE:..

So in each stanza God declares -- I am exhausting the alphabet, I am exhausting human language, I am using every means possible.

I want to tell you that my offer is -- a new beginning, a new hope, a new peace, a new joy, and a new power to live.