

We continue in our series of examining nine characteristics of the Hebrew word *Hesed*, nine characteristics of God's faithful loving-kindness.

Two weeks ago we started by looking at God's faithful loving-kindness in salvation, the reality that while we were yet sinners, God provided salvation because of His extravagant grace and mercy.

Last week Pastor Ben discussed God's desired response to His faithful loving kindness.

This week we're going to look at how God's faithful loving-kindness creates and sustains life.

The reality that God creates and sustains life begins with God as the Creator of all things and of all life, both physical and spiritual.

But where I would like to focus on today is God as the creator and sustainer of spiritual life, the reality that God is the Author and Finisher of our faith!

*Please turn to Psalm 119:81-88.*

Psalm 119 is a remarkable Psalm.

1. It is the longest Psalm in the Bible.
2. It has 22 sections with it, each section has eight verses.
3. The Hebrew alphabet has 22 letters in it.
4. Each of the 22 sections of Psalm 119 are marked with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet, in the order of the Hebrew alphabet.

One Theologian calls Psalm 119, *"The golden ABC's of praise for the Word of God."*

Today we are in verses 81-88 of Psalm 119 and we are going to focus on how God's faithful loving-kindness creates and sustains life through the power of His holy Word; through His promises of salvation for those who trust in Him.

### **1. Seek first the kingdom of God.**

Psalm 119:81-82 (ESV)

*My soul longs for your salvation;  
I hope in your word.  
My eyes long for your promise;  
I ask, "When will you comfort me?"*

God created salvation in the heart of the Psalmist and now they allow the promises of God's salvation to sustain spiritual life in the midst of difficult and uncertain times.

Like the Psalmist, believers in Christ Jesus are saved right now, but they have not received the totality of that salvation. At the second coming of Christ, believers will receive their total inheritance offered through Christ's salvation.

But notice how the Psalmist longs for the completion of his salvation in the Messiah.

The Psalmist places his hope in the Word of God, and so should we!

God's Word is true and it reminds us that for those who are in Christ Jesus there is therefore NO condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, they are free because of Christ's victory.

God's Word reminds us that He keeps His promises! God's Word reveals that ANY and ALL who place their trust in Christ will not be put to shame (Romans 10:8-13)!

### Study Questions:

- A. How does reminding ourselves of God's promises create a longing in our heart for Christ's salvation?
  - B. Why do you think the Psalmist stated, "My eyes long for your promise"? How is the Psalmist's statement connected with Matthew 6:22-23 and contentment?
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## 2. God's Word is a lamp in a dark place.

### Psalm 119:83-85 (ESV)

For I have become like a wineskin in the smoke,  
yet I have not forgotten your statutes.  
How long must your servant endure?  
When will you judge those who persecute me?  
The insolent have dug pitfalls for me;  
they do not live according to your law.

I love what Edward A. Engelbrecht, states about verse 83:

wineskin in the smoke. Items stored in crossbeams of the roof could be ruined if hung too close to the hearth's heat and smoke. The psalmist says he has become shriveled and darkened from the heat and smoke, forgotten by others and even, seemingly, by God. But he has not forgotten God's Word.

So instead of telling you something that you already know, the reality that this world stinks sometimes, let's look at some practical ways to encourage ourselves with God's Word. God's Word is a lamp in a dark place and we should use it daily to encourage, strengthen and preserve us in the midst of trials.

Find at least three "go to" verses that will be your weapons that will help you fight against the discouragement we often face in life.

Here are some suggestions:

Psalm 23

Isaiah 12

Isaiah 53:3-5

Matthew 11:28-29

John 3:16

John 14:1-6

Romans 5:1-11

Romans 10:8-11

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Revelation 21:1-7

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### **3. God's Word reveals His faithful loving-kindness.**

**Psalm 119:86-88 (ESV)**

**All your commandments are sure;  
they persecute me with falsehood; help me!**

**They have almost made an end of me on earth,  
but I have not forsaken your precepts.**

**In your steadfast love give me life,  
that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth.**

**I find it interesting that even though the Psalmist is struggling greatly with his situation, what he desires the most is to give glory to God through his life, through his response to difficulties in life.**

**In your steadfast love give me life,  
that I may keep the testimonies of your mouth.**

**It's easy to focus on the negative! However, to selflessly live your life for the glory of God, in the midst of struggles, now that's an amazing thing.**

**To not allow the struggles of this world to consume and overtake you and your emotions, but to trust and rest in the completed victory of Christ Jesus is a testimony worth fighting for!**

**Study Question:**

**A. Read through the three “take aways” and discuss how you can apply them to your life.**

**What We Take Away:**

- 1. Always find your hope in the victory of Christ Jesus, reminding yourself that this world is NOT your home!**
- 2. Allow the promises in God's Word to be a lamp to light your path all the days of your life!**
- 3. Allow the promises found in God's Word to continually encourage, strengthen and preserve you all the days of your life!**