

*God Speaks*  
**A Workbook for Memorizing**  
**Psalm 19**

by

*May McClure*

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Telephone: 503/554-7439 Email: [sos@sosministries.org](mailto:sos@sosministries.org) Web Site: [www.sosministries.org](http://www.sosministries.org)

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## Introduction

You are about to start a wonderful adventure! Memorizing Scripture is an awesome privilege. As you memorize and meditate on the words of our Lord, you'll find them penetrating the very essence of your being. They'll feed your soul and bathe your spirit as nothing else. You'll experience parched areas of your life being satisfied as never before. You'll find yourself experiencing the Author in new and intimate ways. And as you begin memorizing this psalm always remember that the Bible is unlike any other book—it is the ***all-powerful, never failing Word of God***. It is God speaking to you.

Psalms 19 was written by David. God said that David was a man after His own heart and he is referred to in a loving and exalted manner throughout Scripture. Even in the New Testament and into the Book of Revelation he is spoken of as a person of significance in God's plan for Israel and in His overall plan for the ages. It is unfortunate that when David's name is mentioned our thoughts often turn to his great sin with Bathsheba. This has a tendency to cloud the reality that David was a powerful and unusual man of God. True, he blew it, big time, and he paid dearly for it, as he suffered the consequential anguish and heartache of his sin. It took a painful toll on his life and on that of his family. Yes, he was human and he failed, miserably, but God forgave him and although he was not spared the affects of his sin, he was still a man respected by God because underneath it all, his heart was tender toward God and toward His Word. It should be an encouragement for us to know that even though we may fail, there is forgiveness and restoration when we bring it to the Savior with a penitent heart.

Throughout the centuries David's writings have been a blessing and a treasure for God's people. I'm sure you have been inspired by them in times of meditation and encouraged in time of need. As I memorized and studied Psalm 19 it stretched my thinking and impacted my life in a significant way. I believe memorizing it, meditating on it, and exploring some of its profound truths with me will draw you too, into a deeper appreciation of David's God and for David, one of God's giants in the faith.

As you begin to memorize this powerful chapter, remember that Scripture should not be memorized under pressure, but leisurely, as you give the Holy Spirit opportunity to impress it on your mind and spirit. Remember, it's not getting to know the words that's important; joy lies in getting to know the Author. Be sure you can say each verse without mistakes before going on to the next one. Say the Scripture you have learned, often—preferably out loud—while you're working around the house or yard, riding in the car, lying in bed, or whenever your mind isn't active in other areas. The more often you say it, the easier it will be to remember. Writing it out also helps to impress it on your memory. Some people find it helpful to note word and letter associations—such as acronyms, alphabetic sequence or counter sequence and/or the repetition of words. Such associations help jog the memory when a catalyst is needed.

As you proceed through this workbook, it will be important for you to have someone who will listen to your quoting to be sure you are memorizing word perfect. As you progress and add each verse it will be helpful for you to start from the beginning of the chapter in quoting and also to write or type out the prior two or three verses to help impress them on your mind. Filling in blanks is also a great way to learn, but in order to get the full benefit, it will be important for you to cover up each portion as you complete it to eliminate the temptation of looking back at answers. So be sure to cover up the "Beginning" part before going on to the "Progressing", then cover up the preceding sections progressively as you go along. These suggestions will be mentioned for the first few verses as you begin but then it will be up to you to follow through on your own in order to receive the greatest benefit.

Our book, *The Sword! Scripture Memorization: A Must For Today* is a great textbook to encourage and instruct in the adventure of memorizing God's Word. It can be down-loaded free of charge or purchased at this web-site.)

*It Couldn't Just Happen* by Lawrence O. Richards, *The Communicator's Commentary (Psalms 1-72)* by Dr. Donald M. Williams and *Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Psalms* have been helpful resources in the preparation of this workbook. Hebrew references are from *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*.

## Psalm 19:1

### *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands.*

When people are shown through a beautiful, new home they are often impressed with how well it is has been planned—the architecture, the configuration of the layout, the accommodation of the rooms, the type of construction . . . They will sometimes ask, "Who built this for you?" Why would they ask this? It's because the house speaks of the one who designed it and built it. It illustrates in a visible form their talents, their abilities and even much about their personality and character.

This same premise can also be applied to Psalm 19. Have you ever been out in the country, away from the city lights and looked up at the myriad of stars that sparkle from horizon to horizon, ever present, ever twinkling like diamonds under a bright light? Scientists tell us that with the naked eye we could count about 1,029 stars. By using giant telescopes astronomers estimate that there are 100 billion stars in our own galaxy, and that there may be as many as 100 billion galaxies in the universe.

The facts become even more difficult to grasp when we consider that the distance even to the nearest stars (beyond our sun, that is) has to be measured in "light years". So, how far is a light year? Light travels at 186,000 miles a second. If you multiply 186,000 by 60 (to get miles per minute) times 60 (for miles per hour) times 24 (for the number per day) you find that light travels 16,070,400,000 miles a day. And if you multiply that by the 365 days in a year, you learn that a light year is 5,865,696,000,000 miles. Our sun is approximately 8 light minutes away. The next nearest star is 4.8 *light years* away. Scientists say that our galaxy is 100,000 light years in diameter and that the distance to the farthest object in the universe is a quasar named OQ172 that is about 17,000 million light years away. Are you ready for that in "earth" numbers? It would be 17,000,000,000 times 5,865,696,000,000 miles from earth.

To express these distances in another way: if you started out the moment you were born and ran a mile every four minutes, without stopping, you would be 700 years old before you reached the sun. And you would be 182 million years old before you reached the next star. Now, what does this tell you about the One who created our universe?

*(Be sure to quote this verse to someone who will check it for you to be sure you are saying it correctly, and write or type it out to help impress it on your mind.)*

#### **Beginning:**

*Vs. 1 - The \_\_\_\_\_ declare the \_\_\_\_\_ of God; the \_\_\_\_\_ proclaim the \_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_ . (Don't forget to cover up as you go along.)*

#### **Progressing:**

*Vs. 1 - \_\_\_\_\_ heavens \_\_\_\_\_ the glory of \_\_\_\_\_; the skies \_\_\_\_\_ the work of His \_\_\_\_\_ .*

#### **Advancing:**

*Vs. 1 - The \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_; the \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ .*

#### **Arriving:**

*Vs. 1 - \_\_\_\_\_*

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## Psalm 19:2

### *Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.*

If you heard that the Lord was speaking in your city, would you go to hear Him? This verse tells us that His podium is set up in the sky. His choir is a myriad of stars stretching out over billions and trillions of miles. "*Day after day they pour forth speech.*" When something is dropped, it happens all at once and then it's over, but "pouring" must be done over a period of time. Day after day the Lord "pours" out His message on to the earth in a never ending flow. And it comes in living color. Night after night He paints a picture of His greatness in the sky for every man to behold.

The message came through loud and clear to the author of Psalm 147, as he exclaimed in awe "*He counts the stars and calls them all by name. How great is our Lord! His power is absolute! His understanding is beyond comprehension!*" (vs. 4 NLT) As he gazed up into the night sky, glittering with over a thousand stars, he was overcome with the wonder of it all. How much more are we, as we try to grasp the reality that our galaxy hosts billions of stars and the sky hosts billions of galaxies. And when we think about our God knowing every one and even calling them by name, there are no words to express our wonder. I can only say "*Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.*" (as David exclaimed while trying to describe another aspect of God's greatness in Psalm 139:6)

Daniel said that in the last days knowledge would increase and in recent years we have seen it erupt like enormous fireworks in every direction. In the field of astronomy, powerful telescopes have been built to explore the horizons of space. And what have they come up with—mind boggling statistics regarding the numbers of stars and galaxies and the distances involved. It seems that the more powerful the telescope, the more incredible their findings.

It's as if our Lord in these last days is visibly and tangibly demonstrating His eternal attributes with ever increasing zeal in an effort to force mankind to acknowledge Him as their Creator. Paul said in Romans 1:20: "*From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made. They can clearly see His invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse whatsoever for not knowing God.* (NLT) It has always been so, but how much more now, as even secular newspapers and magazines proclaim evidence that no sincere heart can question—and it only balloons with every new discovery.

Yes, the skies reveal undisputable evidence of God's limitless power and infinite intelligence. But another divine attribute is also interwoven into this great display of His glory. Most of us think we have some grasp of His omnipotence and His omniscience, but the concept of eternity is another thing. It's impossible for us mere humans to grasp the meaning of "eternity". We know we have an "*eternal*" God, although we really have no idea of what this means. So our Lord has strung out the heavens in a seemingly endless choir to give us just a glimpse of what eternity must be like. But if we can't even grasp the finite distances and numbers that are ever before us in visible form, I guess we know why it's impossible for us on this earth to grasp the infinity of *eternity*.

(Now, be sure to say verses one and two together to the one checking for you and write or type them out.)

#### **Beginning:**

Vs. 2 - \_\_\_\_\_ *after* \_\_\_\_\_ *they pour forth* \_\_\_\_\_ ; *night* \_\_\_\_\_ *night they display* \_\_\_\_\_ . (And you won't forget to cover up each section as you go along, will you?.)

#### **Progressing:**

Vs. 2 - *Day* \_\_\_\_\_ *day* \_\_\_\_\_ *pour* \_\_\_\_\_ *speech;* \_\_\_\_\_ *after* \_\_\_\_\_ *they* \_\_\_\_\_ *knowledge.*

**Advancing:**

Vs. 2 - \_\_\_\_\_ after \_\_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ after \_\_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_\_.

**Arriving:**

Vs. 2 - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 19:3 - 4a**

***There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard.  
Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world.***

It's interesting that in these verses there are four references to verbal communication, *speech, voice language and words*. And yet information that would normally be received through the hearing process, is here perceived through the eyes. It's as if our Lord has commissioned every star in His massive choir to proclaim His greatness and they are all declaring with joyful enthusiasm, "Look here! Our Creator has no limitations to His capabilities, no measure to His knowledge, no restrictions to His power and no boundaries to His existence. Look at us! We're living proof"

So, as you look up into the night sky, and hear this awesome message being proclaimed, what language would you say is being spoken? W-e-l-l-l-l, if you speak English, it's English, isn't it? But then if you're Russian, you hear it in Russian, or Spanish, if you are Spanish, or Swahili, if that is your language. Our Lord needs no earthly words. His language is universal. Everyone in the whole world looks up into the same sky and if they have an open heart, they hear the same message being broadcast in their own language, no matter what it is. Twenty four hours a day, three hundred and sixty five days a year, it is beamed to every corner of the earth. Every tribe and people and nation and language gets the same message in their own tongue. No one is left out. Missionaries have documented tribal groups who have awaited the arrival of evangelists bringing a book that tells about a Savior. By general revelation they have already learned about the Creator and are ready for the missionaries to tell them the "rest of the story". The great God of the Universe loves them all. He claims them all for Himself.

Just as a matter of interest, have you ever seen a dog or a cat, or any other animal look up into the sky to hear God's great choir declaring His glory? I think not. This is a joy given only to man, the crown of His creation. Man alone can hear this message so vividly displayed in the heavens.

*(Time for review! Start from the beginning and say verses one through four(a) together to the one helping you and write or type out verses three and four (a) to be sure they are correctly and firmly impressed in your mind.)*

**Beginning:**

Vs. 3-4a - *There is no \_\_\_\_\_ or language where their \_\_\_\_\_ is not heard. Their \_\_\_\_\_ goes out into all the \_\_\_\_\_, their \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.*  
*(You'll remember to cover up as you go along from now on, won't you?)*

**Progressing:**

Vs. 3-4a - *There is \_\_\_\_\_ speech \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_ voice \_\_\_\_\_ out into \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ words to \_\_\_\_\_ ends \_\_\_\_\_ the world.*

**Advancing:**

Vs. 3-4a - \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ where \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ . Their \_\_\_\_\_ goes \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ , their \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Arriving:**

Vs. 3-4a - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 19:4b-5**

*In the heavens He has pitched a tent for the sun,  
which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion,  
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.*

As the moon and myriad of stars rule the night, the sun alone, rules our day. Stars that light up the night sky stand back and bow to the brilliance of the sun during the day. The sun is our star, the center of our universe, and a major participant in God's creation. For us, it is by far the most important object in the sky. Every plant, every fish, every animal, every person on our planet is dependent on laws, ratios, checks and balances as they relate to our sun.

Astronomers have called Earth the *odd* planet or the *mystery* planet. They can't understand why it's so different from all the other planets in our solar system. They don't know why it is placed in just the right orbit at just the right distance from the sun or why it has just the right balance of elements and moisture and a thousand other things that are needed to support our existence on this planet.

But what about the other planets in our solar system? Are they so different? With powerful telescopes and space probes we have learned much about them. So let's check some out and see what we find. *Mercury*, the planet closest to the sun is very dense and revolves very slowly. What takes 24 hours on Earth takes 176 earth days on Mercury. Its temperatures range from -280 to +800 degrees Fahrenheit. *Venus* rotates only once every 243 of our days. It has clouds that trap in the heat so that the temperature is about +870 degrees Fahrenheit, even hotter than Mercury. *Jupiter* is the largest planet. It is made up of compressed gas and is a slushy mixture of ice and vapors. It spins rapidly, once every ten hours, creating greater-than-hurricane force winds. *Saturn* also spins rapidly and it's cold, (approximately 290 degrees below zero) because it's over 800 million miles from the sun. Winds there rage at approximately 1,000 miles per hour. *Uranus*, four times the size of Earth, is a gas giant with a solid core and rotates backward on its side. Its "year" brings each pole forty-two Earth years of winter. Its average temperature is 350 degrees below zero. *Pluto* is farthest from the sun. It is the smallest planet, probably smaller than our moon and although we know little about it we do know that its temperatures dip down to about 390 degrees below zero.

This gives us a little understanding about why scientists consider ours *the mystery planet*. We are placed uniquely just the right distance from the sun to insure tolerable temperatures. If we received just 1% less energy from the sun our planet would soon be covered with ice, 1% more and it would be unbearably hot. We are tilted at just the right angle to give us credible seasons. We are given a rotation that accomplishes reasonable days and nights. We have the precise amount of gravity needed to allow us to walk about freely without flying off into space, or on the other hand becoming so heavy we would have difficulty even moving around. We have an atmosphere that protects us from flying space debris, a

moon that creates tides to keep our oceans from becoming stagnant and sterile and countless other carefully designed "details" far too numerous to document. In many cases, just a minute variation of just one of the countless laws and balances that keep it all in place would result in a situation fatal to our existence. No, it couldn't *just* happen.

Now, that we have glimpsed our Earth and other planets as they relate to the Sun, let's take another look at what David is describing in this psalm. As a shepherd, he spent days, nights and probably weeks, out in the fields tending his sheep. At night as he lay looking up into the sky before dozing off, he must often have pondered the secrets of the starlit beyond. In the morning as he watched the sun pop over the horizon he saw it as emerging from an imaginary tent, like a radiant *bridegroom* adorned in his wedding garments coming out to greet his bride. And he imagines that it is savoring the start of a new day as a star athlete excitedly anticipates the beginning of a race.

*(Don't forget to review the previous verses along with this one as you quote to the one working with you, and write or type out verses 3 and 4. From here on I'm sure you'll be able to remember on your own.)*

**Beginning:**

*Vs. 4b-5 - In the \_\_\_\_\_ He has \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ is like a \_\_\_\_\_ coming forth \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_, like a champion \_\_\_\_\_ to run his \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Progressing:**

*Vs. 4b-5 - In \_\_\_\_\_ heavens \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_ which is \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ coming forth \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_, like a \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Advancing:**

*Vs. 4b-5 - In the \_\_\_\_\_ He has \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ for the \_\_\_\_\_, which is \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ coming \_\_\_\_\_ from his \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Arriving:**

*Vs. 4b-5 - \_\_\_\_\_*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 19:6**

***It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is hidden from its heat.***

Notice, David doesn't say that the sun "travels" or "follows its course" from one end of the heavens to the other, he refers to its *circuit*. The Hebrew word used here for *circuit* is "revolution" as "revolving around a center". In bygone days the earth was considered flat and nothing was known about orbits or the earth's revolution around the sun. It is interesting that David alludes to this long before scientists discovered it. [Isaiah also preceded scientific discoveries when he spoke of the "circle of the earth". (Isaiah 40:22)]

Nothing is hidden from its heat, but there are areas that are hidden from its light. There are places in this world where darkness prevails, as in caves that extend deep into the earth. Surely they are a picture of those who do not know our Lord. *God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:5)* If you have ever been in one of the "tourist" caves when the lights are turned off, you have a frightening concept of darkness that is difficult to otherwise perceive. It vividly illustrates a sense of the penetrating gloom that characterizes those who have never opened their hearts to the brightness of God's glory and will remain forever in darkness.

This could also apply to dark areas that may be lingering in our lives. The Lord is forever seeking out areas that we may try to keep hidden from Him. He wants us to let His redemptive light shine into every aspect of our being. As the sun rules the day, it is important that the light of God's Word rule in every corner of our hearts and lives.

Yes, there is a vast and wondrous Universe out there that God hung in space for everyone to see, but He's not so busy taking care of the stars and the galaxies, holding everything together (Colossians 1:17) that He has no time for the microscopic beings He has placed on this little planet we know as Earth. Our psalm is about to take a dramatic turn. We have in these first verses been awed by His greatness as it relates to His creation; in the next verse, we will begin to focus on another aspect of His greatness.

**Beginning:**

*Vs. 6 - It \_\_\_\_\_ at one \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ and makes its \_\_\_\_\_ to the other; \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ from its \_\_\_\_\_ .*

**Progressing:**

*Vs. 6 - \_\_\_\_\_ rises at \_\_\_\_\_ end of \_\_\_\_\_ heavens and \_\_\_\_\_ its circuit \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ heat.*

**Advancing:**

*Vs. 6 - It \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ circuit \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ its \_\_\_\_\_ .*

**Arriving:**

*Vs. 6 - \_\_\_\_\_*

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**Psalm 19:7**

***The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.***

***The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.***

In verses 1-6 we concentrated on God's glory as demonstrated in the heavens, now the focus shifts to earth. Whereas the witness of His creation testifies to His great attributes, it does not speak of a personal, loving God who longs to receive our love. It does not tell us about His holiness or how we finite beings can communicate with this great God of creation. The skies proclaim the existence of an eminent and wonderful Creator, but in doing so only render us helpless in knowing how to respond to him. Only in His Word do we learn about a God who loves us, One who anticipates our every need. Only in His Word do we learn about the bridge that spans the vast expanse existing between finite, human beings and the great omniscient,

omnipotent Creator of the Universe.

*The law of the Lord is perfect . . . Now comes reality! This God of Creation has rules He expects us to live by, laws He requires us to keep. In fact, He demands perfection. He can't tolerate sin in any form. What a dilemma! On one hand we have a holy God with laws demanding perfection and on the other, we have sinful people who are completely incapable of living up to them. So, why did God even bother telling us about them if He knew we couldn't keep them? Because it's only when we see the measure of perfection that is commanded by God that we become aware of our sinfulness and our need for a Savior. . . .through the law we become conscious of sin . . . (Romans 3:20)*

There are dire consequences, and eternal punishment for those who do not live up to God's laws. *The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. (Romans 1:18-19) But, (here is a big "but") But Jesus, Son of our wonderful God, Jesus, knowing our plight, was born as a man, and as a man kept God's law to perfection. Innocent He was, but He took our guilt on Himself. He took on Himself all of the sins of the whole world, willingly suffering the punishment for our sins and enduring a horrible death in our place. The law was (just) our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ. (Gal 3:24 KJV)*

All He now requires of us is that we humbly acknowledge our need, and accept as a gift, the forgiveness He gladly provides. . . . *righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. (Romans 3:22).* It doesn't come from our struggle to achieve the impossible, it comes only through receiving the One who accomplished it for us. Jesus fulfilled the law for righteousness, paid the price for our sins, and lovingly clothes us with His righteousness, if we will only receive it. When we accept the finished work of Jesus, God sees us as perfect, not because we are, but because He sees Jesus in our heart, and He is. *For (God) has made Him to be sin for us who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. (II Corinthians 5:21 KJV)* As David said, *The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul. (KJV)*

Could it be that someone who is following this study may have come to this point in life and is just now realizing his own inadequacy when measured by God's standard of perfection? Could it be that, for reasons known only to you, you may not yet have experienced this joy. If perhaps you have never reached out to Jesus to receive the forgiveness He so lovingly offers, why not do it right now? Just bow your head, and tell the Lord Jesus that you know you are a sinner and you know you have broken God's laws. Thank Him for taking the punishment for your sins and shortcomings and ask Him to come into your heart and into your life to cleanse you from your guilt. When you accept Jesus as your Savior He takes your sin and gives you His robe of righteousness. And ask Him to help you live within the guidelines that He has so carefully laid down in His Word.

*The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy . . . We can throw our weight on God's Word and know that it will remain steadfast. God doesn't change His mind along the way, as do many men. His Word makes "wise the simple". No matter how intelligent we might be or how uncomplicated our thinking process, if our reasoning is based on God's truths, we are wise, wiser than the world's most brilliant minds. The entrance of (God's) words . . . gives understanding to the simple. (Psalm 119:130 NKJV)*

**Beginning:**

*Vs. 7 - The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord is perfect, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ making \_\_\_\_\_ the simple.*

**Progressing:**

*Vs. 7 - The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Lord is \_\_\_\_\_, reviving the \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_, making \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Advancing:**

*Vs. 7 - The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ . The \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_, making \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Arriving:**

*Vs. 7 - \_\_\_\_\_*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 19:8**

***The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.  
The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.***

*The precepts of the Lord are right . . . Precepts are translated "commandments" or "statutes" in some translations and these words seem to be interchangeable. Whichever terminology is used, they **are right!** (In Hebrew, "just, straight, upright".) And they give *joy to the heart* or as the King James says, they bring *rejoicing (to) the heart*. The Hebrew word used here for *joy* is "to brighten up, to cheer up or gladden". In other words it is through God's declared statutes that our Lord explicitly reveals what pleases Him in a way that we can intellectually understand. It is through obedience to these statutes that we can experience *joy*.*

Judges 17:6 says, *In those days . . . every man did that which was right in his own eyes. (KJV)* It seems we are now back to a similar rationale. Anyone who stands up for scriptural truths and biblical condemnations in this day and age is often severely criticized, even ridiculed, by those who consider themselves "politically correct". "If it feels good, do it." is their reasoning. But we all know where joy lies, don't we? Do you experience joy in your spirit when you ignore God's laws and yield to your own lust whatever form it takes—or—when you choose to do the *right* thing. Man can only experience joy by living within the parameters laid out in the eternal Word of God. As you are memorizing it, you are branding it on your heart so it will forever be a joy in your life.

*The commands of the Lord are radiant . . .* "Pure" instead of radiant is used in some translations. God's commands are clear, without darkness; clean, without contamination or alloy. They give "*light to the eyes*". *The entrance of (His) words gives light. (Psalm 119:130 NKJV)* In contrast to the heavens which gloriously transmit their message without words, God's commands are specific, carefully spelled out in "human words". But both the glorious message of the heavens *and* God's infallible Words are received through our eyes. As we read them with our eyes they are received into our souls. They are purifying to those who receive and embrace them. Someone has said, "When we look at the commandments, our eyes transmit the light of God to our souls." How much more so when we memorize them and the light of God's Word is not just considered as a passing thought but is actually etched on our minds and souls.

**Beginning:**

*Vs. 8. - The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord are \_\_\_\_\_, giving \_\_\_\_\_ to the heart. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Lord are \_\_\_\_\_, giving \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ eyes.*

**Progressing:**

Vs. 8 - \_\_\_\_\_ precepts \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ are right, \_\_\_\_\_ joy to the \_\_\_\_\_ .  
\_\_\_\_\_ commands \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ are radiant, \_\_\_\_\_ light to the \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Advancing:**

Vs. 8 - The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ . The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
are \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Arriving:**

Vs. 8 - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Psalm 19:9***

***The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.***

***The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous.***

The Word *fear* as used in Scripture is commonly translated "reverent awe" or "reverential trust". It is interesting that some commentaries on this verse prefer the more conventional meaning. Perhaps in this day when wicked men hold God's absolutes up to ridicule, it would be good if "reverential awe" was laced with a little more "reverential *fear*". When Moses came down from the mountain with the ten commandments, the children of Israel were terrified. We're told, *When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die. (Exodus 20:18-19)* Such respect for God's laws is lacking in our culture. Even many Christians tend to approach God's holy Word with little awareness of its profound significance.

*The fear of the Lord is pure. . .* The Hebrew word for *pure*, used here, means "clean" or "fair". We're told, *The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver . . . purified seven times. (Psalm 12:6 KJV)* Because the "*fear of the Lord*" is uncorrupted by this world, it endures forever. Jesus said, *Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away. (Matt 24:35)* And we read in Psalm 119:89 *Forever, O Lord, your Word is settled in heaven. (NKJV)* It will endure forever. Time will not alter it in any way. There will never be any variation or change. We can build our life on its truths, they will endure throughout eternity.

*Ordinances* is translated "judgments" in the King James Version and seems to have judicial connotations in the Hebrew. Allusion is made to "sentence" and "formal decree". *Sure* as used here has the meaning of being "right, faithful, trustworthy, true". And *righteous* in the Hebrew is "to be made right" or "to cleanse".

In verses 7 - 9 David has used interesting terminology with slight variations of meaning to describe precise guidelines that God has laid out for us. And a diversity of adjectives and synonyms are used to enhance their meaning and application. They may seem somewhat repetitive, but I have found that

memorizing and meditating on them has significantly impacted my life. It's difficult to explain. Perhaps the best I can do is to say it has been nourishing, powerful and cleansing to my spirit. (I would enjoy hearing your comments as to how the Lord chooses to use this text in your life.)

**Beginning:**

*Vs. 9 - The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_, enduring \_\_\_\_\_. The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ Lord are \_\_\_\_\_ and altogether \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Progressing:**

*Vs. 9 - \_\_\_\_\_ fear of \_\_\_\_\_ Lord \_\_\_\_\_ pure, \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ ordinances \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ sure and \_\_\_\_\_ righteous.*

**Advancing:**

*Vs. 9 - The \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.*  
*The \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Arriving:**

*Vs. 9 - \_\_\_\_\_*

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***Psalm 19:10***

***They are more precious than gold, than much fine gold;  
they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.***

Now that God has painted an indelible picture of His glory and greatness in the heavens, and in human language has drawn our attention to His infallible laws, statutes, and standards, He now reveals another aspect of His greatness. We now glimpse His *amazing grace*. He doesn't just lay down the law and say, "Okay, you guys, these are My laws! They are perfect, and pure and trustworthy and unyielding. You had better obey them or you're going to get it!!"

No, our Lord now gently and patiently appeals to our reasoning ability. He wants our desire and our love to be toward Him. He wants us to choose His way, not just to legalistically accommodate His wishes. He wants us to see the value, to appreciate the great privilege we have and to eagerly pursue it — because we love Him. I John 5:3 says, *This is love for God to obey His commands*. He says, in essence, "Look, this is the way of joy. This is the way of happiness. This is where the treasures of life are found. You'll never find them in this world's wealth of gold and silver. My laws and statutes are much more precious than anything this world can offer you. They're as sweet as honey, not burdensome, as they are so often perceived. They're not tedious and heavy, they are tender and loving. It's only because I love you that I want to protect you and show you the way of joy that can only be experienced as you walk within the guidelines I have given."

Gold is only for this world. It's used to satisfy earthly desires. It has no lasting worth. There are only two things in this world that will last forever and they are the "soul of man" and the "Word of God". It is as we apply God's Word, His laws and statutes to our life that our soul can experience just a little bit of heaven before we get there. Our Lord has told us *Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth . . . but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven. (Matthew 6:19-20) Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. world. (Colossians 3:2 KJV)* Joy can only be ours if we carefully honor the parameters laid down

in God's Word.

You may want to measure your appreciation for God's Word, His laws and admonitions with that of the author of Psalm 119. He bares his deep, emotional love for God and His Word with such passion, it's like a fire burning in His soul. You may enjoy going through the psalm and writing down the many passages alluding to this aspect of his prayer. We are listing just a few to stimulate your thinking and your desires. May his fervor inflame the passion of our hearts.

vs 14 - *I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.*

vs 16 - *I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.*

vs 20 - *My soul is consumed with longing for your laws at all times.*

vs 24 - *Your statutes are my delight; they are my counselors.*

vs 47 - *...I delight in your commands because I love them.*

vs 97 - *Oh, how I love your law! I meditate on it all day long.*

vs 103 - *How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!*

vs 111 - *Your statutes are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart!*

vs 127 - *...I love your commands more than gold, more than pure gold....*

vs 143 - *...your commands are my delight.*

vs 163 - *I hate and abhor falsehood but I love your law.*

vs 167 - *I obey your statutes, for I love them greatly.*

**Beginning:**

Vs. 10 - They are more \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_, than \_\_\_\_\_ fine gold; \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_, than \_\_\_\_\_ from the \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Progressing:**

Vs. 10 - \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ precious \_\_\_\_\_ gold, \_\_\_\_\_ much \_\_\_\_\_; they \_\_\_\_\_ sweeter \_\_\_\_\_ honey, \_\_\_\_\_ honey \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Advancing:**

Vs. 10 - \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ fine \_\_\_\_\_; they are \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Arriving:**

Vs. 10 - \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Psalm 19:11

***By them is your servant warned;  
in keeping of them there is great reward.***

Verses 1-6 amplify the great attributes of our God as demonstrated in the heavens. Verses 7 - 10 come down to earth and exemplify God's laws, statutes, precepts, commands and ordinances in the language of man. We are told they are perfect, trustworthy, right, radiant, pure, lasting, sure and altogether righteous. They revive the soul, make wise the simple, give joy to the heart and light to the eyes. They are precious, more precious than gold, and sweet, sweeter than honey. Having reviewed God's divine attributes and His laws, David faces the reality of his own inadequacy. He is drawn by the rewards promised to those who live by the divine ordinances, but he is also aware of his inability to abide by them and he realizes that there is an unexpressed but obvious warning for those who do not.

God's laws are His unyielding rule for righteousness. Perhaps if we had a firm grasp of what this really means we would be more fearful of knowingly stepping outside their loving boundaries. True, we can't live a perfect life as long as we are in these earthly bodies, but if we knowingly and deliberately wander out from the covering and protection that is given to those who walk in His will, we become vulnerable to an enemy whose sole aim is to kill, steal and destroy everything we hold dear.

Praise the Lord, Jesus is the end of the law for righteousness, and He has taken the punishment for all of our "broken laws". When we do stumble we should be quick to rush to Him for forgiveness and cleansing. *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)* But this doesn't excuse us from the responsibility of making choices that are within the parameters of God's laws and admonitions. The law of the Lord is pure and clean and it will make us clean if we take it seriously and apply it to our daily walk. Although our eternal status may not be in jeopardy, we will one day be judged for the way we have lived our life in the light of the revelation that has been given us. I Corinthians 3:12-15 spells it out very clearly: *If any man builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.*

### **Beginning:**

***Vs. 11 - By \_\_\_\_\_ is your \_\_\_\_\_ warned; in \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_ is great \_\_\_\_\_ .***

### **Progressing:**

***Vs. 11 - \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_ your servant \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ keeping \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ reward***

### **Advancing:**

***Vs. 11 - \_\_\_\_\_ them \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ ; in \_\_\_\_\_ there \_\_\_\_\_ .***

### **Arriving:**

***Vs. 11 - \_\_\_\_\_***  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Psalm 19:12

*Who can discern his errors?*

*Forgive my hidden faults.*

So, who really knows what lurks in the dark recesses of his own heart? I am frequently horrified when, after the fact, sometimes long after the fact, the Lord finally gets through to me, and is able to show me the affect of a thoughtless action or careless word I have casually dealt. When I see it from His view point it often takes on frightening dimensions. I have said so often, "Lord p-l-e-a-s-e help me to live close enough to you so that you can check me *before* I am guilty of such blunders." But somehow I have never arrived. Who knows what I am guilty of many times on a daily, even hourly basis, sins and digressions that I'm not even aware of. Who indeed can discern his own errors?

When he contemplates God's righteousness as laid down in the prior verses, David becomes aware that he is completely incapable of discerning his own motives and actions and that he is guilty far beyond his own perceptions. His psalm now takes another shift as he starts to bare his soul in prayer to God and cries out, "*How can I know all the sins lurking in my heart? Cleanse me from these hidden faults.*" (NLT) Jeremiah 17:9 says, *The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.* (KJV) Whether we like it or not, these are our roots and we are incapable of discerning our own actions.

This is why those living by their own rules, who have no regard for God's laws, are doomed to heartache and grief in this life and eternal condemnation in the next. This is why we as Christians need to be sensitive to God's Holy Spirit as He lovingly reveals "hidden" areas of our life that need to be addressed. As you now begin memorizing and meditating on David's beautiful prayer you will find yourself crying it out to the Lord from the depths of your own spirit.

### Beginning:

Vs. 12 - Who \_\_\_\_\_ discern \_\_\_\_\_ errors? \_\_\_\_\_ my hidden \_\_\_\_\_.

### Progressing:

Vs. 12 - \_\_\_\_\_ can \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_? Forgive \_\_\_\_\_ faults

### Advancing:

Vs. 12 - Who \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_ ? \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ .

### Arriving:

Vs. 12 - \_\_\_\_\_

## Psalm 19:13

*Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.*

*Then will I be blameless, innocent of great transgression.*

The Lord described David as a man after His own heart. Perhaps these last verses of our psalm, especially, give us some insight as to why he would be described in this way. The heart cry he expresses is that of a man humbled and devastated by his own weaknesses and inability to comply with what God requires. In verse twelve he zeroed in on the sins hidden deep in his being, sins that he's not even conscious of; now he addresses the more overt aspect of sin in his life.

In this verse he admits that in his own strength, he's incapable of resisting even the most blatant sins. (The King James Version uses the term "presumptuous sins".) In desperation, he continues to plead with the Lord "Keep me from deliberate sins! Don't let them control me. Then I will be free of guilt and innocent of great sin." (NLT) Notice, he doesn't say he's going to be innocent of transgressions (or sins as in NLT) but of great transgression. He knows he can't live a sinless life, but only a *blameless* one and this only as he looks to God's Word for guidance while trusting only in the strength of its Author.

Yes, we too know that sinless perfection will not be ours this side of eternity, but we can, as David, live a blameless life. As you now memorize and pray David's prayer as yours, you too can draw strength from David's God and learn to walk ever more closely to Him in every situation.

**Beginning:**

Vs. 13 - *Keep your \_\_\_\_\_ also from \_\_\_\_\_ sins; \_\_\_\_\_ they not \_\_\_\_\_ over \_\_\_\_\_ . Then \_\_\_\_\_ I be \_\_\_\_\_ , innocent \_\_\_\_\_ great \_\_\_\_\_ .*

**Progressing:**

Vs. 13 - \_\_\_\_\_ servant \_\_\_\_\_ from willful \_\_\_\_\_ ; may \_\_\_\_\_ rule \_\_\_\_\_ me. \_\_\_\_\_ will I \_\_\_\_\_ blameless, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ transgression.

**Advancing:**

Vs. 13 - \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_\_ me. \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Arriving:**

Vs. 13 - \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Psalm 19:14**

***May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.***

In these last verses, David has addressed his (and our) errors, hidden faults, willful sins, and great transgressions. Now he looks at the communications that come out of his mouth and the meditations that inhabit the recesses of his heart. Jesus said, ". . . out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks." (Matthew 12:34 NKJV). Thoughts and words, the two can't be separated. What *is* deep down in your heart? What would be found in the crevices of mine? This is where our desires and motives dwell. This is where our words and actions take root. And this is where the enemy aims his most vicious and cunning attacks.

Solomon said, ". . . as (a man) thinketh in his heart, so is he." (Proverbs 23:7 KJV) This is undoubtedly why he cautions us, "Keep your heart with all diligence for out of it spring the issues of life." (Proverbs 4:23, NKJV) The New Living Translation says, *Above all else, guard your heart, for it affects*

*everything you do.* What you spend your time thinking about is "you". Your agenda and the direction of

your life is determined by your thought life. It follows then that the place to defeat Satan is at the point of what we take into our minds and let our minds feed upon.

This is why the enemy systematically works to control what we see, hear, read, and think about: any communication that exposes us to satanic deception and perversion. He knows that *if he can control our thoughts, he can control our life*. This is why he bombards us with compromise and evil from every direction. This is why it is important for us to build a strong defense against him.

According to Ephesians 6:12, the weapon the Lord has given us for both offense and defense against the onslaught of evil is the mighty Sword of the Spirit, God's Word. Now as you are carefully hiding it in your heart, you are learning to "take" your Sword in hand, and you are progressing toward the fulfillment of the prayer in this psalm. You are nourishing the "roots" of your life as you memorize and meditate on God's very Words. What could be more acceptable to Him? This is how your desires and motives are brought into alignment with His will. Acceptable words and actions will follow.

The King James Version translates the last part of this verse, *O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer*. Truly, our ability to walk in the "everlasting" way of obedience lies only in complete reliance on the Great, loving God of the Universe. Whether it is for salvation, for memorizing Scripture or for wisdom and strength in applying it to our life, it can only be accomplished as we rely unrelentingly on the *strength of our Lord and our Redeemer*.

As you now complete this compelling psalm, embrace it, review it often and meditate on it. May it ever bless you and draw you into a precious, abiding relationship with our holy, powerful, loving and gracious God.

**Beginning:**

*Vs. 14 - May the \_\_\_\_\_ of my \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of my \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_ in your \_\_\_\_\_ O \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_ and my \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Progressing:**

*Vs. 14 - \_\_\_\_\_ the words \_\_\_\_\_ my mouth \_\_\_\_\_ the meditation \_\_\_\_\_ my heart \_\_\_\_\_ pleasing in \_\_\_\_\_ sight, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ Rock \_\_\_\_\_ Redeemer.*

**Advancing:**

*Vs. 14 - \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, my \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Arriving:**

*Vs. 14 - \_\_\_\_\_*

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***Congratulations!***

*Now you have completed memorizing Psalm 19. Be sure you can say it in its entirety to the one who is checking it for you (without fumbling or jumbling). Writing or typing it out will also help to establish it in your mind. Review it often and **E - N - J - O - Y**.*

## **Psalm 19**

- 1. The heavens declare the glory of God;  
The skies proclaim the work of His hands.**
- 2. Day after day they pour forth speech;  
night after night they display knowledge.**
- 3. There is no speech or language  
where their voice is not heard.**
- 4. Their voice goes out into all the earth,  
their words to the ends of the world**
- 5. In the heavens He has pitched a tent for the sun,  
which is like a bridegroom coming forth from his pavilion,  
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.**
- 6. It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other;  
nothing is hidden from the heat.**
- 7. The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul.  
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple**
- 8. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.  
The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.**
- 9. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.  
The ordinances of the Lord are sure and altogether righteous.**
- 10. They are more precious than gold, than much fine gold;  
they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.**
- 11. By them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.**
- 12. Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.**
- 13. Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.  
Then will I be blameless, innocent of great transgression.**
- 14. May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing  
in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.**