**Hello Valley Heights Ladies!** Reviewing our Oct. 2nd Bible Study!

*A quick look at “Lamedh” --- Psalm 119:89-96*

**The Word of God LINKS us to CHRIST in the ‘HEAVENLY PLACES’**

“Don’t let the sense of past failure defeat your next step!” This is what an old theologian reminded me of in one of his devotionals recently. It relates so well to the ‘pivotal point’ we have now reached in Psalm 119—the 12th of 22 stanza’s!

 I was reminded of what the disciples had done in the Garden of Gethsemane in Matthew 26:38-46. They did the unthinkable—they had gone to sleep instead of watching and praying with Jesus. Every time He found them sleeping, He continued to persevere with them and didn’t give up giving instructions and directing them to do the right thing! The disciples could have been so defeated by their lack of response to His commands. It could have left them despairing and debilitated. BUT Christ knowing their weaknesses continued to speak truth into their lives; He said, ***“GET UP and LET’s GO!”*** Jesus’s ***WORDS*** enabled perseverance, and brought security and stability to the disciple’s lives! They got up and continued their journey with Christ!

The Psalmist **‘lost his grip’** momentarily in the “Kaph” stanza. He could have despaired and remained defeated--***-BUT*** he didn’t! *He sets an example for us!* He ***GOT UP*** and continued to follow ‘the testimony of His mouth’, the ***WORDS*** of his MASTER! Ladies, this same precious Word of the LORD calls us to do likewise. This is the heart of “Lamedh”!

***Let’s RISE*** together ladies and ***SEE*** once again the impact and implications of the Word of God not only for the psalmist’s life but for our own lives as we embrace these truths by faith!

Vs. 89—Let’s RISE and see that the Word of God is ***PERPETUAL***!

Vs. 90—Let’s RISE and see that the Word of God is ***PERMANENT***!

Vs. 91—Let’s RISE and see that the Word of God is ***POWERFUL***!

1 Peter 1:24,25 “…The grass withers and the flower falls off, **BUT** the Word of the Lord stands Forever”

Psalm 117: 2 “For His lovingkindness is great toward us, and the truth of the LORD is everlasting…”

Psalm 102:24-26 “…**YOU** founded the earth, and the heavens…they will perish, but **YOU** endure…”

*God is ETERNAL!* *His Word is ETERNAL!* *FOREVER true!* *FOREVER trustworthy!* *FOREVER relevant!* *FOREVER reliable! FOREVER distinct! FOREVER dependable!*

The Word of God had a powerful effect on the psalmist! God’s Word will perform its work in US too:

Vs. 92a—Let’s RISE and see that the Word of God will produce ***PLEASURE***!

Vs. 92b—Let’s RISE and see that the Word of God will produce ***PERSPECTIVE***!

VS. 93a—Let’s RISE and see that the Word of God will produce ***PERSEVERANCE***!

Vs. 93b—Let’s RISE and see that the Word of God will remind us of His ***PRESCENCE***!

Vs. 94—Let’s RISE and see that the Word of God will produce ***PARTNERSHIP in PRAYER***!

Vs. 95a—Let’s RISE and see that the Word of God will produce ***PATIENCE in PERSECUTION***!

VS.95b—Let’s RISE and see that the Word of God will produce a ***PURSUIT*** for the will of God!

Vs.96a—Let’s RISE and see that the Word of God brings ***PERSUATION*** that “The law of the Lord is **PERFECT** restoring the soul.” Psalm 19:7

Vs.96b—Let’s RISE ladies and see that the Word of God brings us a complete ***PERFECT PICTURE***!!

 What is this complete picture?? The reality is that life is not COMPLETE unless the Word of God has a ***PERMANENT PART*** in our daily lives!!! Christ knows our weaknesses ladies! We need to ***“GET UP”*** and stop dwelling on our past failures and continue our journey with Christ, like the disciples, forgetting what is behind and ***PRESSING ON*** as we continue to listen carefully and obediently to His ***PROCLAMATIONS*** and embrace His ***PROMISES***!

 We MUST put our feet on the ***PROTECTIVE PATH*** of God’s Word! It is God’s Word that sustains and stabilizes our feet and emotions from going out of control!! Jesus Christ being our ‘Chief Cornerstone’ brings *STABILITY* and *STRENGTH* and *SECURITY*! Jesus Christ *SHIELDS* and *SHELTERS* and gives *SHAPE* to our lives!! We must ***PURPOSEFULLY*** direct our *THINKING* to the ***PERSON of CHRIST*** and our ***POSITION*** in Christ as declared in the pages of scripture!

Ephesians 2 states that Mercy and Love made us alive **WITH** Christ! Verse 6 states, “and RAISED us UP **WITH HIM**, and SEATED us **WITH HIM** in the heavenly places **IN** Christ Jesus!”

This is so beautiful! I wish I had more time!!!!! We are PARTAKERS of something divine, supernatural and out of this world!!! Jesus Christ our **ETERNAL** ‘heavenly bridegroom’, our head and representative has sat down, sustaining and stabilizing us along with the entire universe! Let’s think about this! Therefore, the Word of God should bring one more ***‘P’*** to our lives----***PEACE***!!!!

Are the difficult situations and circumstances that you are now facing on this earth producing instability in your life? As your emotions and moods falter with life’s trials, where are you going for security and stability? Are the battles you are facing clouding your view of the eternal realities?

In our Wednesday night study, “How People Change”, the author states on page 22, “EVERYTHING you do will be shaped by the degree to which you ***BELIEVE and ACT*** upon the blessings that *are yours* in Christ.” ***Let’s RISE*** and read one more time Ephesians 1:3, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with **EVERY** spiritual blessing **IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES** in Christ.”

This is a very challenging stanza! What kind of example are we setting in the midst of our trials and in our day to day tasks? Are we ‘fighting the good fight of faith’; concentrating and comprehending, disciplining and devoting, and straining and striving to take hold (lit. getting a grip) of the eternal life to which we were called? Are we truly experiencing His grace in our lives?

The Psalmist’s weaknesses and trials were still persistent and present. Yet he was resolved to not focus on the temporal things, though his circumstances were very real and very painful. He ***MADE A CHOICE*** to focus on what really matters - the realities of needing to live with a heavenly and eternal perspective because of the ***PERMANENCE***, ***POWER*** and ***PERFECTION*** of God’s Word! What about you?

2 Timothy 2:10, “For this reason **I ENDURE ALL THINGS** for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it **ETERNAL GLORY**!!

Enjoy your study and reflections on ***“Mem” Psalm 119:97-104*** for our next study at the Roseboom home, Tuesday, October 16th @ 9:30a.m. There is no ‘sweeter’ stanza than ‘Mem’!

Joyfully learning,

Christyn