

## Prayerful Anticipation of God Being Near and His Sure Word

### Psalms 119:145-152

Group <sup>1</sup>	C	V	Description
פ Qoph	119	145-152	Prayerful anticipation of God being near and His sure word

### Reflections

This psalm is another example of how we should be expecting to encounter God through His word and how his presence should be seen as close to us even when we feel surrounded by enemies. What source can give us this confidence? The answer to that is found in the last verse of the section—God’s eternal word.

145-147—crying out to God and relying on His word

148-149—anticipation of meditating on God’s word

150-151—contrast of those who are near: the wicked and God

152—the eternal, sure word of God

How do we read God’s word with prayerful anticipation of encountering God in the process? First we should read through the text without trying to find application until we’ve read the entire passage. Get the big picture of the passage first. Then you can start to look for applications.

Begin by outlining the passage looking for paragraph breaks or groups of verses that cover a topic. Then you should ask yourself some questions about the text. The simplest process I’ve found is to use the outline below or something similar.

Finally, we need to determine if there actions steps that need to be taken going forward. In other words, what are you going to do with what you’ve read and discovered? You need to make an action plan. My suggestion is to start simple and then build on your successes. Here’s a couple of passages that speak to the idea of building on each new layer of faithful behavior.

**Romans 5:1-8 NASB** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God. 3 And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; 4 and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope; 5 and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. 6 For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will hardly die for a righteous man; though perhaps for the good man someone would dare even to die. 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

**2 Peter 1:3-9 NASB** seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. 4 For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of *the* divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. 5 Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, 6 and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, 7 and in your godliness,

<sup>1</sup> (NASB) “Group” column from the headings in the NASB text.

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brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. 8 For if these *qualities* are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 For he who lacks these *qualities* is blind or short-sighted, having forgotten *his* purification from his former sins.

Paul also speaks of how each pastor or teacher we encounter in our Christian walk should build on the foundation of Jesus as our Lord and Savior. This too is important to understand as we seek to encounter God in His word and our lives.

**1 Corinthians 3:4-15 NASB** For when one says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not *mere* men? 5 What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave *opportunity* to each one. 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. 7 So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. 9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. 11 For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, 13 each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. 14 If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. 15 If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

Enjoy God's word with anticipation of meeting Him in His library—The Bible—and in your life as you live out the things that you have learned.

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### ***There and Then: Here and Now***

Answer the questions below as you reflect on your own life and this part of our study<sup>2</sup>: *my LOG vs others SPECK*. Here are some possible responses I've identified from the text that might apply to anyone.

S - Are there *sins* for me to avoid or confess?

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P - Are there *promises* from God for me to claim?

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E - Are there *examples* for me to follow or avoid?

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C - Are there *commands* for me to obey?

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K - How has this passage increased my *knowledge* about God / Jesus / Holy Spirit?

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**Key Words:** Old Testament, Wisdom/Poetry, Psalms, Prayer, Meditation, Omnipresence, Scripture

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2 *Navigator Bible Study Handbook* (The Navigators), with additions & Matthew 7:1-5.

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