

**PSALMS: DIARIES OF GODLY OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS**  
**Psalm One Hundred And Nineteen (Nun) - Biblical Crisis Management**  
**(Psalm 119:105-112)**

**I. Introduction**

- A. When a crisis arises in a believer's experience, it usually entails a drain on his physical, mental and emotional "reserves" that can inhibit productivity from a **human** viewpoint! If one tries to **continue** functioning with such **drained** resources, he can fold up or just give up as another of life's "basket cases".
- B. Psalm 119:105-112 is a study in crisis **management** for facing such an affliction as follows:

**II. Biblical Crisis Management, Psalm 119:105-112.**

- A. The psalmist lays out a pattern for using Scripture for crisis management in Psalm 119:105:
  - 1. **Step One** - He assumes that the crisis or crises he faces make insight as difficult and distressful as it is for one physically to see on a dark, moonless night on a potentially treacherous pathway, Ps. 119:105. Keep in mind that the Oriental mind of the psalmist's era feared darkness, Z.P.E.B., vol. 3, p. 866.
  - 2. **Step Two** - In view of this limited and hence fearful insight, the psalmist uses Scripture to illumine **only** the **immediate** course of action -- what is involved in life's **next STEP**. This fact is illustrated by way of a covered candle lantern used in the psalmist's era that illumined only a single step's distance, v. 105a.
  - 3. **Step Three** - When each step is taken onto what the lantern **already** illuminates, the lamp, moving along with the walker, sheds light on the **next** step that he must negotiate along his pathway, Ps. 119:105b.
  - 4. **Step Four** - As such steps are repeated in **consecutive order**, the walker **eventually** covers the entire length of his life that is full of surprises and crises in the "dark", and **yet** makes out **well**, Ps. 119:105b.
- B. Having laid out this formula for crisis management, the psalmist describes the mental dynamics involved in this process in Psalm 119:106-112:
  - 1. **Mental Dynamic One** - There is a mindset needed for taking the **immediate** steps of the crisis, 107-110:
    - a. To offset the price in emotional, mental and physical suffering caused by the crisis at hand, the psalmist looks to God's promises for renewal, Ps. 119:107.
    - b. Having been renewed in each case, the psalmist offers thanksgiving and requests for more insight that affects his understanding of the next consecutive step needed, Ps. 119:108.
    - c. Realizing that even his life may be endangered in the crisis at hand, the psalmist promises not to forget the life-saving input of Scripture in every crisis he faces along life's pathway, Ps. 119:109.
    - d. Understanding that his opponents are out to make trouble for him when he faces his crises, the psalmist decides to stick close to God's revealed truths in Scripture, Ps. 119:110.
  - 2. **Mental Dynamic Two** - There is a mindset needed for making **long-range** plans, Ps. 119:106, 111-112:
    - a. For the long haul, the psalmist makes a commitment to stick close to Scripture, Ps. 119:106.
    - b. He recognizes that Scripture, his inheritance in a crisis, brings him joy for its protective insight, 111.
    - c. Thus, he decides that, for the **long** haul, he will **bend** his **heart** to **do** what the **Bible** teaches he must do **whenever** he faces **any** crisis in his **future**, Ps. 119:112.

***Lesson:*** *God knows that WE really LACK the resources under crisis drains to do EFFECTIVE in-depth thinking or planning for immediate or certainly for long-term matters. Thus, we should face crises by (1) using SCRIPTURE to handle IMMEDIATE steps we must take, and (2) RESOLVE to be BIBLE-BASED AFTERWARDS so that WHEN crises arise AGAIN, we will THEN be able to handle them as well.*

***Application:*** *(1) It is a mistake to think we can stay "on top of" life's crises, for life eventually gets TOO BIG for ANYBODY to handle well on his own: the angelic conflict, our own human weakness and even personal sin natures make depending on OUR own resources a sure formula for eventual DEPRESSION and spiritual DEFEAT. (2) God thus urges us to encounter life's events in "small chunks": (a) we are to follow HIS WORD for the NEXT FEW MINUTES (b) and then make it a habit to duplicate that act for EACH SET of FUTURE few-minute intervals we have left in life's path! (c) This way GOD encounters life WITH us and makes us ADJUST well as our lives unfold!*