**Hello Valley Heights Ladies!** Reviewing our Dec.4th Bible Study!

*A quick look at “Ayin”---Psalm 119: 121-128*

**The Word of God ANNOUNCES the ATTITUDES and ACTIONS of a persevering SERVANT!**

What keeps us persevering ladies as we stand and defend God’s righteous Word? What causes us to LIVE counter-culturally? What shapes our responses to the nagging aggravations in us and all around us? ***ACKNOWLEDGMENT*** of being Christ’s **SERVANT**  will depend on Him earnestly! ***ALLEGIANCE*** to His Word will direct a life of exclusivity! ***ATTITUDE*** will determine energy! ***ACTIONS*** will display endurance! ***ALMIGHTY*** God will demonstrate endless mercy!

In this stanza the psalmist once again declares his **LOVE** for God’s clear, definite, authoritative, life giving, sin restraining commands which ***are above*** the most valuable, genuine, purest and indestructible gold on earth! He emphasizes again that he **“HATES EVERY FALSE WAY”(** Psalm 119:104,128); he hates **EVERY** false doctrine, hates **EVERY** false lifestyle, hates **EVERY** choice that would lead him to compromise, hates **EVERYTHING** that would distract him and cause him to deviate from walking in the purity of Truth, hates **EVERYTHING** that would betray his Lord’s teaching, hates **EVERYTHING** that would injure his testimony for Christ, hates **EVERYTHING** that the world loves, hates **EVERY** form of evil, he hates the thought of **EVER** being a stumbling block!

 *“What is more valuable than gold?”* ***ACKNOWLEDGMENT***, ***ALLEGIANCE***, ***ATTITUTE***, ***ACTIONS*** and **SERVING** an ***ALMIGHTY GOD*** who ***ACTS***!! Jesus our Lord in Luke 18:1 “was telling them a parable to show that at ***ALL*** times they ought to PRAY and NOT to lose heart.” The psalmist has been suffering throughout this Psalm for doing what is right and for obeying God’s commands. But he is not losing heart; he is pursuing what is acceptable and pleasing in his Master’s sight. He is persistent in prayer! He knows God listens! He knows God WILL ***ACT***! He’s hoping! He’s trusting! He’s waiting!

Let’s not forget ladies that True Biblical Womanhood *lives a Christ-saturated life*! She lives a life of dependence, repentance, holiness and **SERVICE**; but above ***ALL*** she desires more than anything to be like Christ and ‘esteem right ***ALL*** God’s precepts concerning **EVERYTHING**; HATING **EVERY** FALSE WAY”

Ladies, let’s examine in light of this stanza our own ***ATTITUDES*** and ***ACTIONS***. A SERVANT of CHRIST:

Vs. 121a ***ACTS*** according to His revealed will. She has done what is right before God and man.

Vs.121b ***ARTICULATES*** her requests. She prays specifically for those who are in opposition to her.

Vs.122a ***ADMITS*** she is a worshipper and a slave of obedience to the One True God praying, “God be my guarantee, my surety, my security”- take me under your protection!

Vs. 122b ***APPROACHES*** the throne of Grace for help in her time of need

Vs.123a ***AGONIZES*** and *ACHES* for the Lord’s assistance

Vs.123b  ***AWAITS*** in dependence for God to execute His promises and unfold His perfect timing

Vs.124a ***APPEALS*** to God’s character; His lovingkindness, His mercy, His goodness, His faithfulness

Vs.124b ***ASPIRES***-yearns, **SEEKS** to be taught by God Himself through His Word in the hour of testing

Vs. 125a ***ACKNOWLEDGES*** a deepened desire to grow and to change by His grace and His Spirit

Vs.125b is ***ATTENTIVE*** to simply live devoted to God’s ***ABSOLUTE*** standards for her behavior because she loves Him and is compelled to PLEASE HIM. She takes seriously His warnings.

Vs.126a ***ANTICIPATES*** divine intervention for the Lord to protect His holiness.

Vs.126b ***ANGUISHES*** with a holy jealousy because God’s Law, the manner and principles that shape our character and conduct, are being dishonoured, disobeyed, and disregarded.

A **SERVANT** of Christ ***ASSESSES*** the way of those in opposition to His Truth!

A **SERVANT** of Christ ***ALWAYS*** brings a humble ***APPEAL*** motivated by a passion for God’s glory!

Vs.127a ***AFFIRMS*** and ***APPRECIATES***, ***ADMIRES*** and ***ADORES*** God’s written ***AUTHORITY***, ***ATTACHING*** herself to them!

Vs.127b ***APPROVES*** and ***ACCEPTS*** ***ALL*** of God’s Word, concerning herself with each and every individual part

Vs. 128a ***ADVANCES*** and ***ADJUSTS*** her life’s decisions and choices towards holiness-knowing that obeying His command to be Holy gives an opportunity to display the very nature of God- 1Peter 1:15

Vs.128b ***ABHORS*** **EVERYTHING** contrary to her Lord and His Word. **LOVING** what He loves and **HATING** what He hates! Our responses to God’s Commands need to clearly be ***YES, LORD***!!

This stanza goes from ***AFFLICTION*** to ***AFFECTION***! From ***AGONY*** to producing ***APPETITE***!

A **SERVANT** of Christ ***ADORNS*** herself with the doctrine of God her Saviour in **EVERY** respect! Titus 2:10

A **SERVANT** of Christ ***ALLOWS*** the grace of God, that has brought salvation to her soul, to instruct her to deny ungodliness and worldly desires, to living sensibly, righteously and godly in this present age, looking for the blessed HOPE and the ***APPEARING*** of the glory of her GREAT GOD and SAVIOUR, CHRIST JESUS, who gave Himself (submitted, served and sacrificed) for her to redeem her from **EVERY** lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession…”

Ladies, Jesus Christ shines brilliantly in this stanza! Let’s quickly go back to vs.122! The cross-reference from vs.122 ‘surety’ catapults us to Hebrews 7:22! The psalmist prays “Be surety for Your Servant” and Hebrews 7:22 declares, “Jesus has become the guarantee (***lit. ‘surety’***) of a better covenant. Here is Christ in this stanza—***CHRIST IS OUR SURETY***!! Praise be to God that Jesus Christ Himself accomplished salvation for us and will complete sanctification in us! “God has bound Himself to us by His promises of Grace!” He has forgiven us, washed us, clothed us with His perfect righteousness and given us NEW DESIRES!! Desires to **live a SERVANT’S** life as He did! Praise God that by His ‘surety’, He has accepted us and made us His servants, set-apart ones forever!

To me Martha Peace in her book, *“Attitudes of a Transformed Heart”* sums this stanza up beautifully:

“Because God is the *Supreme Ruler* of His creation, *is working* in His creation, *is holy and pure*, and *faithful to keep His promises*, we have a responsibility to **WORSHIP** Him as He deserves. Realize that God Most High is not your peer, pal, buddy, or friend in the sense of a chum. We are to **SERVE HIM**, not use Him to serve us. Bow before Him and tell of His worth. Praise Him for His works and attributes. Give honour to Him as you study His Word. Treat Him with the utmost care. *DO NOT* be trite with Him. Express deep gratitude as a constant ***ATTITUDE*** by delighting in Him and thanking Him every day, ***ALL*** day no matter your circumstances or trials. *NEVER* take His atoning work on the cross and His abiding presence for granted. “

Let’s listen to our Lord’s words, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; *but if it dies*, it bears much fruit. He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it to life eternal. If anyone **SERVES ME**, he must ***follow Me***; and where I am, there **MY SERVANT** will be also; if anyone **SERVES ME**, the Father *will honour* him.”

Thank you all for SERVING Christ alongside of me, Christyn