Psalm 119 • Shin & Tav (#21-22)

1. (v.161-168) Shin (ש): ***Love for Your Word***. We need to recognize that our personal **love** for Christ must go hand-in-hand with our acknowledgment of the Apostle John’s foundational teaching that Christ Himself is “**the Word**”. (Jn. 1:1-5) We cannot **love** one with the other, which means not merely reading or listening to the Word, but becoming “an effectual **doer**”. (Ja. 1:25) There is no authentic **love** relationship with Christ in the absence of complete **obedience** to His Word.
2. (v.169-176) Tav (ת): ***The Word & Prayer***. A prayer life which **fails** to not merely incorporate God’s Word, but **falls short** of seeking an even greater personal commitment to it, is at best **marginal**. Such reveals both a wrong set of **priorities** and a **shortfall** where pursuing a deeper relationship where Christ is concerned.

For Small Group Leaders to summarize these three lessons:

***Overall Application***

***Q: How might these final two teachings summarize the most important themes of Psalm 119?***

A: For those who actually and consistently put God’s Word into practice, they don’t simply admire or revere it, but come to love it; it therefore becomes an essential part of one’s prayer life.

***Q: What is the advantage enjoyed by those who truly love God’s Word?***

A: Because they are faithful to it regardless of the circumstances, their prayer life will be in alignment with God’s will. Their love for and relationship with Christ will be in complete alignment with the Truth.

***Application****: What does this say about someone who claims to love Jesus but rarely if ever* ***reads****, much less* ***studies****, their Bible? To what degree are your prayers* ***formed*** *around the truth of God’s Word? If, as John states, Jesus* ***IS*** *“the Word”, why don’t we* ***approach*** *and* ***observe*** *it as if we are in His very presence?*