



WEEK SEVEN: THE MAINTENANCE PRINCIPLE

CONNECT

This week continue our series called Hope Changes Everything! In this eight-week series, we're looking at the principles Jesus gave us in the beatitudes that help us see the hope and freedom we find in God alone. This week, we look at the **Maintenance Principle**, how important it is to spend time with God daily!

- Have you ever experienced a power outage? If so, what caused it? Were you, or are you prepared for one? How does the possibility of one during a storm make you feel?
- If you could have a superpower what would it be?

DISCOVER

Read Matthew 5:10

God Blesses those who are persecuted for doing right, for the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs.

Read Psalm 119 41:48

***NOTE:** Psalm 119 is an acrostic poem divided into twenty-two stanzas, one for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. There are eight verses in each stanza, and the first letter of each verse is the letter of that stanza. We miss all of this in English of course, but we do see the writer's love for God and His Word. This week we are only looking at one stanza, the Hebrew letter "Waw" (It looks a bit like a backwards "r"), but it would be worth your time to study the entire psalm.*

⁴¹Lord, give me your unfailing love, the salvation that you promised me.

⁴²Then I can answer those who taunt me, for I trust in your word.

⁴³Do not snatch your word of truth from me, for your regulations are my only hope.

⁴⁴I will keep on obeying your instructions forever and ever.

⁴⁵I will walk in freedom, for I have devoted myself to your commandments.

⁴⁶I will speak to kings about your laws, and I will not be ashamed.

⁴⁷How I delight in your commands! How I love them!

⁴⁸I honor and love your commands. I meditate on your decrees.

- Why do you think God blesses those who are "persecuted for doing right"? In this verse, do you think He is saying only those who are persecuted receive the gift of heaven? Why or why not?

- How does the "Message about Christ" bring you hope? How does it "Fill your life"?
- How can God's "regulations" or laws, be the Psalmist's "Only hope"?
- What are some ways in which God's laws provide freedom?
- What words does the writer use to describe how he values God's Word? What words would YOU use to describe how you value God's Word?

GROW

Big Idea: Reserve a daily time with God for self-examination, Bible reading, and prayer in order to know God and His will for my life and to gain the power to follow His will.

- Of the following ways to prevent falling back into old issues (relapse), which of these are already in your daily routine? What would it take to get all three into your daily routine?
 - Evaluation (Examining your life in light of your study in God's Word that day)
 - Meditation (Taking time to focus on God's Word and His presence in your daily life)
 - Prayer (Taking TIME to ask God to help you apply what He is teaching you)
- Where does daily Bible study fit in with evaluation, meditation, and prayer? What is your pattern for regular Bible study?
- Who holds you accountable for spiritual things? How often is that person asking you specifically about your spiritual habits?
- How confident are you in your understanding of how to study the Bible, and in how to get the most from what you are studying?

NEXT STEPS

- If you struggle with any Hurts, Habits, or Hang-Ups, come try out Celebrate Recovery on Monday nights at 6:30, at the Goodyear Campus, 431 N Litchfield Rd, Goodyear, 85338.
www.palmvalley.org/celebraterecovery
- Practice SOAPing this week on one of the stanzas in Psalm 119, and share your SOAP with your group next week.
- Below is a basic description of the SOAP process. If you would like more instruction, or wish to go deeper, you can find more information at palmvalley.org/soap. We would also recommend the book [The Divine Mentor](#) by Wayne Cordeiro.

