This stanza of the Psalm opens with a request to be taught and illustrates the instructing power of God's Word. Paul illustrated the instructing power of the Word of God to Timothy [II Timothy 3:15-16]. As one reads this stanza of the 119th Psalm it is important to keep in mind that these are the words of one who delights in the Word of God. He stated in verse 35 "for therein (referring back to the commandments) do I (present tense) delight" To “delight” in the Word of God is to take pleasure in it. To “delight” in the Word of God is to find it enjoyable. To “delight” in the Word of God is to be enchanted, captivated, and thrilled by it. To “delight” in the Word of God is to be excited by it. To “delight” in the Word of God is to love it, to relish it, and to find happiness in it. To “delight” in the Word of God means that it has a definite place in one’s life. Jesus said to the unbelievers in John 8:37 that the Word of God had no place in them, and sadly this is true of most.

These are the words of one who desires to be quickened by the means of God’s Word [verses 37, 40]. The Psalmist desired to be continually revived, and stimulated by the Word of God.

These are also the words of one who longs for the Word of God [verse 40]. He yearned, he thirsted, and hungered for the Word of God, he had a craving and eagerness for the Word of God! Like Job he found greater benefit in the Word of God than physical food [Job 23:12], and therefore he had a longing in His heart for the Word of God!

These are the words of one who takes the position of a servant [verse 38]. This speaks of a position of humility and submission.

These are the words of one who is dedicated to the reverence of the Lord [verse 38]. These are the words of one who is committed to showing regard and respect to the Lord.

These are all characteristics of a teachable spirit. It is a matter of extreme importance that the child of God always maintain a teachable spirit. This stanza of the 119th Psalm are the expression of a teachable spirit.

1. HE PRAY TO BE TAUGHT THE WORD OF GOD:

"Teach me, O LORD the way of thy statutes" [verse 33]. In this prayer, the teachable spirit takes the position of student.”Teach me” He recognizes the Lord as his teacher-”O LORD” and he perceives the Word of God as the lesson to be learned-”the way of thy statutes” He desired to be taught the Word of God by the Lord as his teacher, because such
would have a **practical** and **continuous** impact upon his life—"and I shall keep it" (the way of thy statutes) **unto the end**

2. **HE PRAYS FOR UNDERSTANDING:**

   "Give me understanding" [verse 34]. "Understanding" is the result of truly learning what is taught. "Understanding" is **perception, awareness, and comprehension.** The result of such is twofold; "**and I shall keep thy law**" and "yea" (a word used for emphasis to introduce a stronger word than the one just used), **I shall observe** (comply with, abide by, adhere to, and follow) **it with my whole heart**

3. **HE PRAYS FOR DIRECTION ACCORDING TO GOD’S WORD:**

   "Make me to go in the path of thy commandments" [verse 35]. These are the words of one who realizes and recognizes his own inclination to wander from the ways of God, and the danger of such.

4. **HE PRAYS FOR INCLINATION OF HEART TOWARD THE WORD OF GOD:**

   "Incline my heart unto thy testimonies" [verse 36]. He is praying that the **Lord** would **bias, and influence, and persuade** his heart in the Word of God, to cause him to **prefer** the Word of God, and to **gravitate** toward the Word of God. This is the prayer of one who realizes and recognizes his own sinful disposition for the ways of the world—"and not to covetousness"

5. **HE PRAYS TO BE DELIVERED FROM THAT WHICH WOULD HINDER HIM FROM BEING TAUGHT:**

   "Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity" [verse 37]. He is praying to be restrained from going after that which is **futile** and gets in the way of truly being taught the Word of God. "**Turn away my reproach**" [verse 39]. He is praying to be delivered from his own **failures**, and those things that were contrary to his spiritual well-being.

6. **HE PRAYS FOR ESTABLISHMENT IN THE WORD OF GOD:**

   "Stablish thy word unto thy servant" [verse 38]. This is a prayer for **grounding** in the Word of God, and a prayer for the Word of God to be fulfilled in his life.

---

This stanza of the **119th Psalm** reveals the characteristics of one who can be taught the Word of God. The words of this stanza ought to be the daily prayer of God’s people.