

PSALM 119: THE BLESSING OF OBEDIENCE

God's word, taught to us by God's Spirit, is the pathway to blessing. Our heart response to His word is central to our growth and spiritual maturity. Ask the Lord, as we look upon these familiar verses, to open your eyes to see, release your heart to treasure, and energize your will to obey His wonderful word.

Psalm 119 is the longest chapter in the Word of God. The Psalm is divided into 22 equal stanzas, each headed by a letter of the Hebrew alphabet. For example: In the first stanza, the first word of each of the eight verses begins with 'Aleph' the first letter of the alphabet in the second stanza the first words all begin with 'Beth' and etc.

There are eight different terms used in **Psalm 119** to denote God's Word. They are:

1. **Word**: Everything He has spoken to us is important and worthy of our prompt attention. **V57**
2. **Promise**: (Translated Word or Promise) Also refers to something God has spoken to us...something we are touched by and need to wholeheartedly respond to. **V58**
3. **Statutes**: The terms of Gods loving covenant with us...His terms that I need to align myself with. **V59** (Also translated Testimonies)
4. **Commandments**: literally 'orders'...doing what He says. **V60**
5. **Law**: Instruction or direction ..the instruction of a Father to His child. The Torah, Pentatench or even the Old Testament. **V61**
6. **Laws/ordinances**: Rulings, judgements. **V62**
7. **Precepts**: Close attention to detail...a number of particular things, specific things about the one speaking and what He says. **V63**
8. **Decrees**: Permanent...'carved in stone'...everlasting, unchanging issues.

These words help highlight the meaning and the Holy Spirit's purpose for us in the message of this Psalm.

119 How blessed are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the Lord.

² How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, who seek Him with all *their* heart.

³ They also do no unrighteousness; they walk in His ways. ⁴ You have ordained

Your precepts, that we should keep *them* diligently. ⁵ Oh that my ways may be established to keep Your statutes! ⁶ Then I shall not be ashamed when I look upon all Your commandments. ⁷ I shall give thanks to You with uprightness of heart, when I learn Your righteous judgments. ⁸ I shall keep Your statutes; do not forsake me utterly!

Beth. ⁹ How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping *it* according to Your word.

¹⁰ With all my heart I have sought You; do not let me wander from Your commandments. ¹¹ Your word I have treasured in my heart, that I may not sin against You. ¹² Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes. ¹³ With my lips I have told of all the ordinances of Your mouth. ¹⁴ I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, as much as in all riches. ¹⁵ I will meditate on Your precepts and regard Your ways. ¹⁶ I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word.

Gimel. ¹⁷ Deal bountifully with Your servant, that I may live and keep Your word. ¹⁸ Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law. ¹⁹ I am a stranger in the earth; do not hide Your commandments from me. ²⁰ My soul is crushed with longing after Your ordinances at all times. **Psalm 119:1-20 NASB**

Psalm 119

V1-3: The blessing of a 'blameless' walk.

- A) Blameless = complete, whole, having integrity.
- B) God says that we are blameless (**Jude v24**) in our spirit because of who Jesus is in us...but do people say we are blameless in our life towards them? Walking in God's Law (His instruction and direction is how this integrity comes).

V2: How blessed are those who observe His testimonies (obedience) who seek Him with all their heart.

"Happy are they who follow His injunctions, giving Him undivided hearts." **Moffat**

- A) Happiness (blessing) is the result of obeying God's Word!

B) The Psalmist equates obeying God's Word with passionate pursuit or wholehearted seeking... (Everybody can travel this road to intimacy. This is the 'practical' side of passion for Jesus.)

V3: They walk in His ways:

A) Walking in the 'word' is walking in Spirit (see **Psalm 103:7**)

B) God knew Moses face to face (**Deuteronomy 34:10**) and God revealed His ways to Moses...this is the same blessing described in **Psalm 119:3**.

V4-8: God gives us His Word so we can obey and be blessed, upright, and thankful.

V9-10: The purity question.

A) How can a young man keep his way pure?

a. By keeping in accordance with the Word.

b. By wholehearted pursuit (**v10**). (Passion flowing from purity is a pleasing fragrance to the Lord.)

c. Lord, You know me...don't let me wander. (God, I give you permission to put up roadblocks when I make a wrong turn.)

V11: The treasured Word within:

A) Treasuring God's promises, commandments, and decrees in your heart is an empowering thing.

B) The imbed-ed treasure of God's Word in your heart and on your mind helps you recognize, resist, escape from temptation. The Word stored in your heart gives you:

a. Boundaries...this far and no further.

b. Balance...I am pulled but not persuaded.

c. Brightness...the entrance of His Word gives light that exposes darkness.

d. Bullets...It is written...

How do I treasure His Word in my heart? (**v12-16**)

A) I listen and learn what He teaches me. (**v12**)

B) I give testimony of how His word works in my life. (**v13**)

C) I enjoy and rejoice in the truth of His Word. (**v14**)

D) I meditate on His Word (**v15**) (see **v97, 102, and 114**)

E) I regard, value, and evaluate His ways. (v15)

F) I delight myself in His statutes (v16). This is how divine counsel comes (see v24, 47-48)

G) I purpose not to forget, and I choose to remember His Word. (v16).

Open eyed wonder (v17-24)

V18: Open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things from Your law.

A. There are wonderful things in Your Word...give me open eyes to see them! (**Ephesians 1:15-23**)

V19: I am a stranger on the earth...don't hide Your commandments from me.

A. I'm a citizen of a different Kingdom...Your Word is the only thing here written in my language. Your Word is my necessary food...I must see it! (see v54)

V20: I am crushed; broken with longing for Your ordinances (note the passion).

"My soul is crushed with longing for Thy just decisions at all times." **Rotherham**

Our redeemed nature loves righteousness and justice and apart from His Word, we find very little of it. When we find righteousness and justice, we find the foundation of His throne and we find the ways of His kingdom, of which we are a part. His words of wisdom, righteousness, and justice put us in touch with our King and our true home.