

Study Questions for Week #1



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1. Joyful. What does it mean to be joyful?
 2. Why would being a people of integrity make a person joyful?
 3. How do I follow Godly instructions?
 4. Why is obeying the law and searching the scripture going to make me joyful?
 5. With all my heart, what does that entail?
 6. What are some ways I would be “compromising with evil” when I strive every day to live for Jesus?
 7. What does verse 4 mean: You have charged me to keep your commandments carefully?
 8. Are you talking about the ten commandments, or are you talking about all the commandments in the bible?
 9. How does anyone stay pure?
 10. How do we hide Gods Word in our heart?
 11. Why should I recite the Word aloud?
 12. How would Gods laws be valuable in comparison to riches? (*14. I have rejoiced in your laws as much as in riches*).

Bonus Questions:

13. How can I become disciplined to study Gods Word?
14. How do I get to the place where I can actually “delight” myself in God’s Word and NOT forget it?

“A Joyful Journey” In Psalms 119:1-24– Lesson #1



119- 1. Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the Lord.2 Joyful are those who obey His laws and search for Him with all their hearts.3 They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in his paths.4 You have charged us to keep your commandments carefully.

5 Oh, that my actions would consistently reflect your decrees!6 Then I will not be ashamed when I compare my life with your commands.7 As I learn your righteous regulations, I will thank you by living as I should! 8 I will obey your decrees. Please don't give up on me!9 How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word.10 I have tried hard to find you—don't let me wander from your commands11. I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

12 I praise you, O Lord; teach me your decrees.13 I have recited aloud all the regulations you have given me.14 I have rejoiced in your laws as much as in riches.15 I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways.16 I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word.

17 Be good to your servant (Barbara Chapmond), that I may live and obey your word.18 Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions.19 I am only a foreigner in the land. Don't hide your commands from me! 20 I am always overwhelmed with a desire for your regulations.

21 You rebuke the arrogant; those who wander from your commands are cursed.22 Don't let them scorn and insult me, for I have obeyed your laws.23 Even princes sit and speak against me, but I will meditate on your decrees. 24 Your laws please me; they give me wise advice.

“Joyfully Following Jesus” 1-19



119- 1. Joyful are people of integrity, who follow the instructions of the Lord.² Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts.³ They do not compromise with evil, and they walk only in his paths.⁴ You have charged us to keep your commandments carefully.

I see the word joyful to be the first word to jump off the page in our Joyful Journey Bible Study, Week #1, in the Book of Psalms- Chapter 119.

What does it mean to be joyful?

Why would being a people of integrity make a person joyful?

What does integrity really mean?=
honesty, probity, rectitude, honor, good character, principle(s), ethics, morals, righteousness, morality, virtue, decency scrupulousness, sincerity, truthfulness, trustworthiness .

From all the definitions above, the meaning is pretty plain why I am joyful for being a woman of integrity. I like the definitions of honest, good character, morality, sincere and trustworthiness. It means I can lay my head down at night and sleep, knowing I have done my best to do what is right and not have a guilty conscience, that makes me joyful/happy. The respect and legacy we leave behind is also important; what will people remember me for? What will they say about my character when I am gone?

How do I follow Godly instructions?

One day at a time, moment by moment, hour by hour, precept upon precept. I get up in the morning, have quiet time, pray and do my best to get into the word. The more I am in the word and the more I can retain and place it in my heart and soul, the more I am able to follow His Godly instructions. The Holy Spirit of God within me, reminds me of His word when I am in the middle of doing something I shouldn't be doing, we serve an awesome God. That is love that is bigger than the ocean and wider than the span of this earthly globe. Amen!

Why is obeying the law and searching the scripture going to make me joyful?

Obedience = blessings, and I want His blessings and favor, that makes me joyful. It is definitely NOT EASY being obedient all the time, and I fail all the time, but there is that GRACE and UNCONDITIONAL LOVE that the Father has for me, and oh how thankful and joyful I am for that.

Searching the Scriptures is life changing and gives me comfort, joy, direction and builds my faith; when I am able to spend a lot of study time in the word, it's also the times it's hard to stop, and then have to come back to the real world, and actually “act upon” what the bible says.

Speaking of time, I am running out of it really fast this morning. Need to stop and get ready for a new week, its Monday and raining outside and it takes me over an hour to get to work. If I don't quit now, I will be late with the rain outside. This is one of those days as I sit here and share with Jesus and you, I wish I had started earlier in my study. Gotta go, see you tomorrow. Thank you Jesus!

“ With all my heart”, what does that entail?

We are back, good morning or afternoon to whomever is studying with us today. Its early and I have about 45 minutes' left before I need to get ready for work. Morning Miss J ☺☺☺.

With all my heart, what does this mean to me..... All my heart – what is in my heart right now? (Don't you just love it when you see a question and then you create or ask another question on top of that one – or am I the only one that does that when studying? That is what makes me think upon the verses and get more out of them)

Vs. 2 - **Joyful are those who obey his laws and search for him with all their hearts.**

The one word that just came to mind is “*time*”. It takes a lot of that to fill “my heart” with right thinking and good attitudes, strength, courage and confidence, in order to follow my Jesus. God has a big heart and I want a big heart, so in order to have a big heart, I need to know Jesus more, and I have to make “*time*” to do that. Building relationships take “*time*”, no instant fixes or magic wands will do this.

What are some ways I would be “compromising with evil” when I strive every day to live for Jesus?

Here we go again, a new question from within a question – what does compromise mean? It means=

agreement, understanding, deal, trade-off, bargain;
balance, give and take, concession, cooperation

This is getting “personal”! How transparent do I really want to be? I need to sit here and ponder this a bit before I can share. First: What is some evil that I have to deal with on a daily basis? I can think of things like, listening to or watching things that God would not approve of-having to really guard my heart and be careful of what I watch on TV. I don't have any problems with seeing anything on the computer that is evil, I must have some good safeguards on this computer, I praise God I don't see any pop ups.

I am also careful to monitor my time spend on Facebook, as it can be addictive, if anyone out there relates to what I am saying. I love it and there is nothing wrong with it until it gets a stronghold on you and you have to check it all day long, and you get where you feel you need the approval fix and like from people, of which most you may have never met, nor really know as a “friend”.

Second: Guarding my thoughts throughout each day, as it is an ongoing battlefield of the mind. It’s so easy to think wrong thoughts and make judgements that are not from God. We can compromise / agree with the opinions of others when we really shouldn’t. Don’t get caught up in petty gossip. If we hang with people of wrong character too much, it will rub off on us. *Guard your heart, listen to the Holy Spirit of God, His still small voice within your heart – He will help us turn towards Him and turn away from the evil that causes us to **compromise**.*

What does verse 4 mean: You have charged me to keep your commandments carefully?

Let me go pull out that verse, I have already forgotten what it said after spending so much time on the first 6 questions. **4 You have charged us to keep your commandments carefully.** This one is pretty simple, God has said over and over and over all throughout His Word to “obey” His commands, written word, scriptures, verses, laws, regulations.

To keep His commands/obey His word is not something to be taken lightly. We need to be “careful” to discern and understand His Word in the right context, in the manner, as God intended us to understand it and then apply it to our lives. We need discipline and commitment. We can’t just take the verses we like and throw out the ones we don’t like. Be “careful” whose teachings/preaching you listen to. Ask God to direct you to the right and Godly leadership and mentorship in your life.

Are you talking about the ten commandments, or are you talking about all the commandments in the bible?

What comes to my mind when I think of the word commandment? Rule, law, instruction, guidance, strict adherence to the authority of God, therefore God wants us to obey his instructions and directions in the Bible for our own good. Because He loves me, He will discipline me, just like a parent does a child. It may not “feel good” in the middle of the discipline, but the end results are in our favor. The commands are for us to have a good life and to have eternal life upon accepting Jesus as our person Savior.

So, I need to be mindful, careful, to daily ask Jesus and the Holy Spirit to fill me fresh with His Holy Spirit, to help me keep His commands, and the only way I can even begin to keep any of them, is to “know them”. To know them, I need to spend time in the Word and read them. I can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens me, that means carrying out His commands and when I fail, ask forgiveness, dust myself off, get back up and go again. Thank you Jesus!!

Verse 5. Oh, that my actions would consistently reflect your decrees!6 Then I will not be ashamed when I compare my life with your commands.7 As I learn your righteous regulations, I will thank you by living as I should! 8. I will obey your decrees. Please don't give up on me!

Actions speak louder than words, how many times have we heard that phrase in our life’s time? Walk the talk, don’t talk the talk, people are watching us. We don’t want to be guilty of going to church on Sunday and leaving the building and leave the presence of God behind the doors.

We do know that the Church is not where God lives, He lives inside each and every one of us, that has accepted Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. Anyone that has learned and disciplined themselves to study the Word and spend time with Jesus, knows that the spiritual growth we have comes from time spent alone with God, not just from an hour or two spent in the pew at church.

We go to church to worship / fellowship and share with other Christians; to hear the Word and be encouraged to go out into the world and live/share Jesus. We need to be faithful to pray for our Pastors / Pastors wives and Leaders, as they have given their life of service to God and us. I think we all forget to do that on a weekly basis, it's so easy to take for granted, that because they are the leaders, they have it all together and we need them to pray for us, not us pray for them. God forgive us for our negligence to lift them up every day in prayer, as they carry a heavy load in being the shepherd of the flock!

Verse 6. Then I will not be ashamed when I compare my life with your commands....The only way for me to live out obedience to His commands is a daily walk, every day is a new day and I need to start it with Him. My day goes a lot better when I seek Him first. The word tells us (a command) to seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these other things will be added unto you (me).

I look at the word “ashamed” and I think of how the devil will try to put us under condemnation and constantly remind us of past sins we have committed. I know a lot of people really have a hard time forgiving themselves of things they have done wrong in the past – God forgives and forgets, satan reminds and torments. There is therefore, no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus!

Here we go again – get back to the commands/Word of God, this is the only way we will be able to stand against the lies and attacks of the devil!

Verse 7. As I learn your righteous regulations, I will thank you by living as I should! Verse 8. I will obey your decrees. Please don't give up on me! Thank you Jesus as I know you will never give up on me! Help me have the same mindset and attitude towards others that I get impatient with or want to give up on.

“I Have Hidden your Word in My Heart” 9-16- Verses: 9-16 : How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word.10 I have tried hard to find you—don't let me wander from your commands. 11. I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.12 I praise you, O Lord; teach me your decrees.13 I have recited aloud all the regulations you have given us.14 I have rejoiced in your laws as much as in riches.15 I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways. 16 I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word.

How does anyone stay pure?- By obeying Gods word and working on it every single day of our lives. Perseverance and a lot of saying NO to our flesh. I am weak but HE is strong. We draw our strength from the Word and prayer and having that close relationship with Jesus – *be honest with Him, He knows everything you did today, yesterday and tomorrow.*

Why do we think we can hide things from Him? Why do we act like He is not right there seeing all we do and say? I deal with every single day just like you do. If we are saved and a Christian, we *hear and believe and know* this, but I think with the hustle and bustle of this life, we have to keep moving or get run over (that's how we feel sometimes). Most days it takes all the energy we can muster up, to make it through the day with a good and happy attitude, none the less, trying to think about being pure in all we do - it is a real effort.

What is being pure? It is NOT being perfect and innocent; its having the right attitude and mindset to strive to be like Jesus-to stand on His Word-to act on His Word, and when I fall down because I am not “pure”, I get back up, tell Jesus about it and ask Him to help me NOT do that again. It also deals with, yes, being more forgiving of others around us that are NOT pure, not being so judgmental about any and every one that doesn’t behave or believe as we do.

How do we hide Gods Word in our heart?

This one is a no brainer at this time in our study..... *Study, Study, Study, Study then Study some more.* **Not** every day you spend time in the word will be the same, guaranteed. **Not** every day will be exciting. **Not** every day, will you feel like you’ve even heard from God. **Not** every day, will you be so excited about all this study time that you are bouncing off the walls. **Not** every day, will you be wide awake and not be tempted to fall asleep while trying to understand what you’re reading. **NO-** Each day is new and will be different, here is where your commitment and discipline will need to kick in! Perseverance! Stay with it, you will **NOT** regret it. Remember- Obedience=Blessings. I want the blessings; I want to hear from Jesus today.

Why should I recite the Word aloud?

I personally have a hard time with this one. I think some of it is just bad and lazy habit; what I mean with that is, I read and pray and carry on conversations within my heart and head most of the time, not saying it out loud. I do know, when you say things out loud, you hear “yourself” in your inner ear and it somehow magnifies what you are reading and helps you retain it better.

I listen to a lot of Beth Moore bible studies, and that girl has it down pack for praying and memorizing the Word out loud. I’ve been listening to her bible study on the book of James in my car, on my CD player when I am traveling to and from work, and she memorized the entire book of James!! She recites it in a conversation/teaching style and it sounds as if she is just sharing; you would never know she is actually sharing it as a memorized book, it’s awesome. I am not that motivated, sorry, God bless anyone that can do the total memorization thing, it takes a lot of commitment and discipline, of which I have some in my life, but not that much.

How would Gods laws be valuable in comparison to riches? (14. I have rejoiced in your laws as much as in riches).

This question wouldn’t begin to make sense to someone that doesn’t know Jesus as their personal Savior. As I sit here and ponder and pray about this question, I get another question (imagine that!) What does valuable mean? A thing that is of great worth, especially a small item of personal property.

Laws are not “tangible”-not something that you can touch, but they are “personal property” to me. The Law-God’s Holy Bible, is packed full of wisdom, hope, encouragement and guidance; these are of *great value* to me! They may not be tangible, but when placed inside my heart and soul, they are life giving and are of far greater value than anything that I can touch or own. Don’t get me wrong, I love “stuff” as much as the next person and I can get carried away with wanting more, just like you, but..... Everything will eventually get old and pass away or deteriorate.

God’s word never fades, gets old or dies, it’s eternal and helps me in all my trials and troubles every single day-that’s OF GREAT WORTH! I rejoice in your Word Father, thank you for the Bible, thank you, thank you, thank you, Amen. You need to work on this one every day-no quick fixes here. Being disciplined does not come “natural” with any of us. I believe it can be a gift from God; it’s also one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit found in Galatians 6:23 – *Self Control* and it will grow and become a daily part of your life (in many areas of your life, not just studying the word). Being disciplined, means saying NO to a lot of my fleshy desires and saying YES to things God would have me do and say.

There are days I get so distracted and have so many things I am busy with (even with my re gifting and crafts for Salt Shakin Sisters Outreach) that I literally have to “make myself” stop what I am doing and sit still and read and study! If you lack in this area, be consistent and ask God to HELP YOU.

To delight oneself in the Word comes from within your heart and soul, and if you don’t have that hunger and thirst for it, you’re not going to want to read the bible, none the less, STUDY it. Everyone is made up differently, we learn differently, our lifestyles are different, our family structures are different, our free time is different, our trials are different; we all have different journeys, therefore what works for me, may not work for you and visa versa.

I do believe, when someone is called to preach or teach the Word of God, there is a special anointing, passion and hunger that is planted in our hearts; it becomes “bigger than us”, it consumes us, we just can’t get enough of it. The word is a deep well, full of wisdom and knowledge, that’s a gift and I am ever so thankful for it. But if you’re not called to teach or preach, you can still ask God to fill you with the hunger to read and understand the Word, so you can live a blessed life and share your faith and help others. As far as NOT forgetting what you read, some of us have better memorization skills than others, but no problem, when you read/study-God’s Word, He honors that, and the Word will be in your heart and it’s there, deep seated for whenever you need it, whether you have it memorized word for word or not.

“Open My Eyes Lord” 17-20



Verses 17 -20: Be good to your servant, that I may live and obey your word.18 Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions.19 I am only a foreigner in the land. Don't hide your commands from me!20 I am always overwhelmed with a desire for your regulations.

As I sit here and ponder these verses, the first thing I see is how awesome this entire Psalms 119 is, and how it can be used as a prayer from me, back to God. That is what is meant by praying the Word back to God and why the previous verses tell us to recite the word aloud. “Be good to your servant, that I may live and obey your word” – God, you are good to me, your servant all the time.

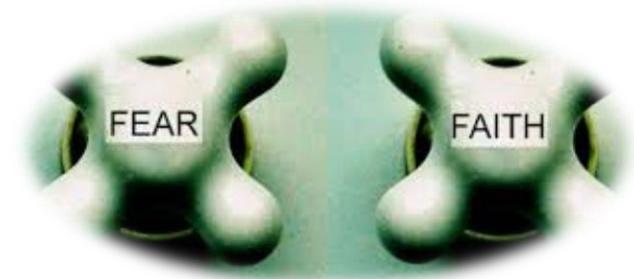
God is good even when we aren't! God is good even when we have bad days and heavy trials and rough journeys, He never changes. God never promised a life without pain or problems, there are scriptures that back that up; there are hundreds of scriptures that give us hope and strengthen our faith to withstand all the pain and problems; He walks with us and oftentimes “carries us” through them. Thankful!

Verse 19 talks about us being foreigners in this land – what is a foreigner? A stranger or outside, among other definitions, but these two fit this context of scripture. Life is short and we are only here for a short while, the older we get the shorter the days. I remember hearing my parents say that when I was just a child, and I thought they didn't know what they were talking about; now I understand!

As a born again, saved child of Jesus, we are in many ways strangers and outsiders in this world; when we obey God's word and strive to live for Jesus, we will be an “outsider or strange person” to most people, because we don't go with the flow and do things that are not pleasing to God. We need to be prepared to walk “alone” and not fit in with the crowds, if we really want to please God more than man. Obedience=Blessings.

Verse 20. I am always overwhelmed with a desire for your regulations. Overwhelmed means engulfed, conquered, swamped, buried, crushed. All of these definitions are most certainly not in context with the way the word is being used in our verse today. I see the word “engulfed” and find this definition to be very applicable for today's study. Father, I want to always be “engulfed” with the desire for your regulations, your laws, your commands, your directions, your guidance, your hope filled words of life, all of which I will find in Your Word. It's my desire to be engulfed and passionate to hear from you Father.

“Wise Advice” 21-24



Verses 21-24: You rebuke the arrogant; those who wander from your commands are cursed.²² Don't let them scorn and insult me, for I have obeyed your laws.²³ Even princes sit and speak against me, but I will meditate on your decrees.²⁴ Your laws please me; they give me wise advice.

Today's scripture starts out a little, or I should say, a lot harsh; it's not one that you want to memorize and be encouraged by, but when reading the Word, we can't pick and choose only the verses that make us feel good, we have to take the entire word and feast upon all of it. Kind of like choosing only the preachers or teachers that "tickle" your ears and don't address the sins issues in our lives.

Basically, if we don't obey God's word and serve Him, we will pay the consequences. It may look like we or others are getting away with living a life of sin and disrespect to God, but the day will come, the Word tells us, "Be sure your sins will find you out". And when we are striving to live a Godly, Christ like lifestyle, you will have others that think you're "out to lunch" for standing your ground and following your convictions; but stand firm, stand your ground, obedience=blessings!

"But I will meditate on your decrees.²⁴ Your laws please me; they give me wise advice. This is the good stuff! When we make the chose to learn about Jesus, meditate, ponder, memorize, think upon, read, listen to, adhere to, follow what Gods' Word says, we will be Wise! Wisdom will take us a long way in life, things just run smoother when we follow Godly wisdom. A really good book for wisdom is Proverbs; you can read **one single verse** and speaks volumes and it can make the difference in your entire day, check it out.

I will meditate on your decrees and your laws please me, give me wise advice this new day. Wow, I just realized we have finished the first week as of today, last verse we looked at before the holidays was 119:24 and it as fresh this morning as it was when we read it last week.

A new week and in I am in need of new advice and instructions; need His Godly protection and wisdom for a new day, a new week and new circumstances that come my way. Every day is a new day, yesterday is gone and today is here and tomorrow will be taken care of when it gets here.

The word tells us to take no thought for tomorrow..... don't bring tomorrow worries and concerns on today, today is all we can handle, one day at a time, deal with tomorrow when it gets here, life will be more peaceful and less stressful.

“ Summarized Prayer from Psalms 119: 1-24”



Joyful are people of integrity, I will follow His instructions. I will be Joyful when I obey His laws and search for Him with all my heart. I will not compromise with evil. Oh, that my actions would consistently reflect your decrees Father God! As I learn your righteous regulations, I will thank you by living as I should! I will obey your decrees. Please don't give up on me!

I will obey your word. I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

I praise you, O Lord; teach me your decrees. I will recite aloud all the regulations you have given us. I have rejoiced in your laws as much as in riches. I will study your commandments and reflect on your ways. I will delight in your decrees and not forget your word.

Oh that I may live and obey your words. Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instructions. I am always overwhelmed with a desire for Your regulations. I will meditate on your decrees. Your laws please me; they give me wise advice.

“I WILL” = 12 times in 24 verses – Action words! Will DO what the word says!

Matthew Henry Commentary – Verse 1-24

Psalms 119:1-3; Psalms 119:4-6; Psalms 119:7-8; Psalms 119:9; Psalms 119:10; Psalms 119:11; Psalms 119:12; Psalms 119:13-16; Psalms 119:17; Psalms 119:18; Psalms 119:19; Psalms 119:20; Psalms 119:21; Psalms 119:22; Psalms 119:23; Psalms 119:24; Psalms 119:25

1 Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord. 2 Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. 3 They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways.

The psalmist here shows that godly people are happy people; they are, and shall be, blessed indeed; God has here laid before us the right way, which we may be sure will end in happiness, though it be straight and narrow. Blessedness are to the righteous; all manner of blessedness.

Now observe the characters of the happy people. Those are happy, 1. Who make the will of God the rule of all their actions, and govern themselves, in their whole conversation, by that rule: They walk in the law of the Lord, v. 1. God's word is a law to them, in the whole course of their conversation; they walk within the hedges of that law, This is walking in God's ways (v. 3), the ways which he has marked out to us and has appointed us to walk in. It will not serve us to make religion the subject of our Christianity, but we must make it the rule of our walk; we must walk in his ways, not in the way of the world, or of our own hearts, Job 23:10,11; 31:7. 2.

Those who are upright and honest in their religion, not only who keep themselves pure from the pollutions of actual sin, unspotted from the world, but who are habitually sincere in their intentions, in whose spirit there is no guile, who are really as good as they seem to be and row the same way as they look. 3. Those who would walk in the law of the Lord must keep his testimonies, that is, his truths. 4. Those who have a single eye to God as their chief good. They seek him with their whole heart.

They do not seek themselves and their own things, but God only; this is that which they aim at, that God may be glorified in their obedience and that they may be happy in God's acceptance. He is, and will be, the rewarder, of all those who thus seek him diligently, seek him with the heart.

5. Those who carefully avoid all sin (v. 3): They do no iniquity; they do not allow themselves in any sin; they do not commit it as those do who are the servants of sin; **they do not make a practice of it, do not make a trade of it.** Blessed and holy are those who thus exercise themselves to have always consciences void of offence. Ps 119:4-64 Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. 5 O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! 6 Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.

We are here taught, 1. To own ourselves under the highest obligations to walk in God's law. The tempter would possess men with an opinion that they are at their liberty whether they will make the word of God their rule or no, that, though it may be good, yet it is not so necessary as they are made to believe it is. We are bound, and must obey at our peril.

2. To look up to God for wisdom and grace to do so (v. 5): O that my ways were directed accordingly! See how the desire and prayer of a good man exactly agree with the will and command of a good God: "Thou wouldest have me keep thy precepts, and, Lord, I fain would keep them." This is the will of God, and it should be our will.

3. Those who have a sincere respect to any command will have a general respect to every command, to the commands of both testaments and both tables, to those that concern both the inward and the outward man, both the head and the heart.

Those who have a sincere respect to all God's commandments shall not be ashamed, not only they will thereby be kept from doing that which will turn to their shame, but they shall have confidence towards God and boldness of access to the throne of his grace, 1 John 3:21. They shall have credit before men; their honesty will be their honor. David speaks this with application to himself. Those that are upright may take the comfort of their uprightness.

Ps 119:7-8- I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments. 8 I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly. Here is, David’s endeavor to know much, but he was still pressing forward and desired to know more, as knowing this, that he had not yet attained. As long as we live we must be scholars in Christ's school, and sit at his feet; but we should aim to be head-scholars, and to get into the highest form. God's judgments are all righteous, and therefore it is desirable not only to learn them, but to be learned in them, mighty in the scriptures.

The use he would make of his divine learning. He coveted to be learned in the laws of God, not that he might make himself a name and interest among men, or fill his own head with entertaining speculations, but, that he might give God the glory of his learning: I will praise thee when I have learned thy judgments, intimating that he could not learn unless God taught him, and that **divine instructions are special blessings, which we have reason to be thankful for.**

Those have learned a good lesson who have learned to praise God, for that is the work of angels, the work of heaven. It is an easy thing to praise God in word and tongue; but those only are well learned in this mystery who have learned to praise him with uprightness of heart, that is, are inward with him in praising him, and sincerely aim at his glory in the course of their conversation as well as in the exercises of devotion. God accepts only the praises of the upright.

His prayer to God not to leave him: "O forsake me not! that is, leave me not to myself, withdraw not thy Spirit and grace from me, for then I shall not keep thy statutes." Good men see themselves undone if God forsakes them; for then the tempter will be too hard for them. " O forsake me not utterly! for woe unto me if God departs from me."

Ps 119:9- **Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.** Here is, a weighty question asked. By what means may the next generation be made better than this? Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? Cleansing implies that it is polluted.

Besides the original corruption we all brought into the world with us (from which we are not cleansed unto this day), there are many particular sins which young people are subject to, by which they defile their way, youthful lusts (2 Tim 2:22); these render their way offensive to God and disgraceful to themselves. Young men are concerned to cleanse their way—to get their hearts renewed and their lives reformed, to make clean, and keep clean, from the corruption that is in the world through lust, that they may have both a good conscience and a good name.

Young men must make the word of God their rule, must acquaint themselves with it and resolve to conform themselves to it; that will do more towards the cleansing of young men than the laws of princes or the morals of philosophers. (2.) They must carefully apply that rule and make use of it; they must take heed to their way, must examine it by the word of God, as a touchstone and standard, must rectify what is amiss in it by that regulator and steer by that chart and compass. God's word will not do without our watchfulness, and a constant regard both to it and to our way.

Ps 119:10-10 With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Here is, 1. David's experience of a good work God had wrought in him, which he takes the comfort of and pleads with God: "I have sought thee, sought to thee as my oracle, sought after thee as my happiness, sought thee as my God; for should not a people seek unto their God?"

If I have not yet found thee, I have sought thee. 2. His prayer for the preservation of that work: "Thou that hast inclined me to seek thy precepts, never suffer me to wander from them."

The more we have found of the pleasure there is in keeping God's commandments the more afraid we shall be of wandering from them and the more earnest we shall be in prayer to God for his grace to prevent our wanderings.

Ps 119:11- Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. David hid it in his heart, laid it up there, that it might be ready to him whenever he had occasion to use it; he laid it up as that which he valued highly, and had a warm regard for, and which he was afraid of losing and being robbed of. **God's word is a treasure worth laying up, and there is no laying it up safely but in our hearts; if we have it only in our houses and hands, enemies may take it from us; if only in our heads, our memories may fail us: but if our hearts be delivered into it, remain on our souls, it is safe.**

Good men are afraid of sin, and are in care to prevent it; and the most effectual way to prevent is to hide God's word in our hearts, that we may answer every temptation.

Ps 119:12- Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes. Here, 1. David gives glory to God: "Blessed art thou, O Lord! 2. He **asks grace from God: "Teach me thy statutes; give me to know and do my duty in everything.** Teach me thy statutes, that I may know how to bless thee.

Ps 119:13-16- With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth. 14 I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. 15 I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. 16 I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word. Here, David looks back with comfort upon the respect he had paid to the word of God. He had edified others with what he had been taught out of the word of God (v. 13): With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.

This he did, not only as a king in making orders, and giving judgment, according to the word of God. Thus he showed how full he was of the word of God, and what a holy delight he took in his acquaintance with it; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.

Thus he did good with his knowledge; he did not hide God's word from others, but hid it for them; and, out of that good treasure in his heart, brought forth good things, as the householder out of his store things new and old. **Those whose hearts are fed with the bread of life should with their lips feed many.** He had prayed (v. 12) that God would teach him; and here he pleads, "Lord, I have endeavored to make a good use of the knowledge thou hast given me, therefore increase it."

"Lord, teach me thy statutes; for I desire no greater pleasure than to know and do them. He looks forward with a holy resolution never to cool in his affection to the word of God. Those that have found pleasure in the ways of God are likely to proceed and persevere in them, but he communed with his own heart about them, and took pains to digest in his own thoughts what he had declared, or had to declare, to others.

Note, God's words ought to be very much the subject of our thoughts. We do not meditate on God's precepts to good purpose unless we have respect to them as our rule and our good thoughts produce good works and good intentions in them. David took more delight in God's statutes than in the pleasures of his court or the honors of his camp. **When the law is written in the heart duty becomes a delight.**

He will never forget what he has learned of the things of God: "I will not forget thy word, not only I will not quite forget it, but I will be mindful of it when I have occasion to use it." Those that meditate in God's word, and delight in it, are in no great danger of forgetting it.

Ps 119:17- Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word. We are here taught, that we owe our lives to God's mercy. David prays, deal bountifully with me, that I may live. It was God's bounty that gave us life, and the same bounty that gave it continues it, and gives all the supports and comforts of it; if these be withheld, we die.

Therefore, we ought to spend our lives in God's service. Life is therefore a choice and this David had in his eye: "Not that I may live and grow rich, live and be merry, but that I may live and keep thy word, may observe it myself and transmit it to those that shall come after, which the longer I live the better I shall do."

Ps 119:18-Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law. There are wondrous things in God's law, which we are all concerned, and should covet, to behold, even revealed unto babes. If there were wonders in the law, much more in the gospel, where Christ is all in all, whose name is Wonderful. Well may we, who are so nearly interested, desire to behold these wondrous things, when the angels themselves reach to look into them, 1 Peter 1:12.

Those that would see the wondrous things of God's law and gospel must beg of him to open their eyes and to give them an understanding. We are by nature *****blind to the things of God, till his grace causes the scales to fall from our eyes; and even those in whose hearts God has said, let there be light, have yet need to be further enlightened, and must still pray to God to open their eyes yet more and more, that those who at first saw men as trees walking may come to see all things clearly; **and the more God opens our eyes the more wonders we see in the word of God, which we saw not before.**

Ps 119:19- I am a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me. David was a man that knew as much of the world, and was as well known in it, as most men. God built him a house, established his throne; strangers submitted to him, and people that he had not known served him; he had a name like the names of the great men, and yet he calls himself a stranger.

The request he makes to God thereupon: Hide not thy commandments from me. He means more: "Lord, show thy commandments to me; let me never know the want of the word of God, but, as long as I live, give me to be growing in my acquaintance with it. **I am a stranger, and therefore stand in need of a guide, a guard, a companion, a comforter;** let me have thy commandments always in view, for they will be all this to me, all that a poor stranger can desire. I am a stranger here, and must be gone shortly; by thy commandments let me be prepared for my removal hence."

Ps 119:20- My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto thy judgments at all times. David had prayed that God would open his eyes (v. 18) and open the law (v. 19); now here he pleads the earnestness of his desire for knowledge and grace, for it is the fervent prayer that avails much.

Ps 119:21- Thou hast rebuked the proud that are cursed, which do err from thy commandments. The wretched character of wicked people. The temper of their minds is bad. They are proud; they magnify themselves above others. And yet that is not all: they magnify themselves against God, and set up their wills in competition with and opposition to the will of God, as if their hearts, and tongues, and all, were their own. **There is something of pride at the bottom of every willful sin.**

The proud sinners bless themselves; God curses them; and, though the most direful effects of this curse are reserved for the other world, yet they are often severely rebuked in this world.

Ps 119:22- Remove from me reproach and contempt; for I have kept thy testimonies. God has all men's hearts and tongues in his hand, and can silence lying lips, and raise up a good name that is trodden in the dust.

2. He pleads his constant adherence to the word and way of God: For I have kept thy testimonies. He not only pleads his innocence, that he was unjustly censured, but, (1.) That he was jeered for well-doing. He was despised and abused for his strictness and zeal in religion; so that it was for God's name's sake that he suffered reproach, and therefore he could with the more assurance beg of God to appear for him. The reproach of God's people, if it be not removed now, will be turned into the greater honor shortly. (2.) That he was not jeered out of well-doing: "Lord, remove it from me, for I have kept thy testimonies notwithstanding." If in a day of trial, we still retain our integrity, we may be sure it will end well.

Ps 119:23- Princes also did sit and speak against me: but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes. David was abused even by great men, who should have known better his character and his case. **What method he took to make himself easy under these abuses: he meditated in God's statutes.**

When they spoke against him, he found that in the word of God which spoke for him, and spoke comfort to him, and then none of these things moved him. Those that have pleasure in communion with God may easily despise the censures of men, even of princes.

Ps 119:24- Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors. Did the affliction make him sad? **The word of God comforted him, and was his delight, more his delight than any of the pleasures either of court or camp, of city or country.** Sometimes it proves that the comforts of the word of God are most pleasant to a gracious soul when other comforts are embittered.

God's statutes were his counsellors, and they counselled him to bear it patiently and commit his cause to God. God's testimonies will be the best counsellors both to princes and private persons. There will be found more safety and satisfaction in consulting the word than in the multitude of other counsellors.