



2023 Focus: Living by the Word of God

Matthew 4:4

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February 8, 2023

Walking Through Psalm 119

How to live by the Word of God:

Verse #4 – It looks like the psalmist shifts to a prayer mode. He restates what God has commanded concerning His Word (**verse 4a**). Remember real prayer is agreeing with God and the decision to obey what is commanded in advance. Obedience is never questioned. Diligently refers to passionately keeping His commandments. It is maximum efforts over a sustained period of time. It is obeying until it becomes a lifestyle and habitual.

- not partially, but fully;
- not doubtfully, but confidently;
- not reluctantly, but readily;
- not sadly, but gladly;
- not by chance nor happenstance, but carefully and willingly.

Verse #5 (NLT) – The prayer continues. Divine commands should direct us in our prayers – (**verse 4**). His prayer reflects the desired end. A longing to obey. It is a consciousness of failure while lovingly clinging to the Lord. He does not pray for direction but for enabling. It's the earnest desire to keep His Word. Not just to be safe or happy but holy. He implores help to keep the Word. It is something that can only be obtained by divine grace. Remember grace is God's influence and power to accomplish what God requires. It is an

influential aspiration that does not evaporate. It is a mighty incentive implanted by grace which will not let us rest without holiness (Philippians 2:12-13 NLT).

Verse #6 NLT – This verse shows the result of obeying the Word of God. “Then I shall not be ashamed,” is a statement that comes from knowing shame and now rejoices in the prospect of being freed from it. Sin brings shame, when sin is gone, the reason for being ashamed is banished. I will not be ashamed when I compare my life to God’s commandments. My life will look like His Word.

Verse #7 – He shifts from prayer to praise. This verse shows what praise really looks like. He does not say I will shout, run, or scream. It does not say I will lift holy hands. It does say I will praise Him, and thank Him by living as I should. The New King James Version reads, “By uprightness of heart (pure heart).” As I learn them, I will obey them. Notice the intentionality in His voice – his heart’s intention is to obey God’s Word.

Verse #8 – This verse is a declaration of obedience. But he also asserts that he cannot do this without God. The godly conduct that produces spiritual stability depends on obeying the divine standard of God’s Word. The Word is what cultivates godly attitudes, thoughts and actions that will keep you from being overwhelmed by trials and temptations.