



2023 Focus: Living by the Word of God

Matthew 4:4

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Walking Through Psalm 119

How to live by the Word of God:

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 – **James 1:22-25**. My life will look like His Word.

Verse #7 – He shifts from prayer to praise. This verse shows what praise 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. That’s what real praise look like – **Amos 5:21-24, Micah 6:8**.

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 – 1 John 1:7 NLT.

Verses 9-11 teaches us that internalizing the Word of God is the believer's best weapon to defend against encroaching sin.

Verse #9 – shows us how to become and remain pure – NLT. In verse #9, the Word of God causes us to be aware of our sins and our sinful nature. The verse teaches that the Word of God makes us aware that we cannot handle our sins ourselves. It teaches us that the Word of God is essential to form habits that result in a pure life. Therefore the question, "how can a young man remain pure or live a pure life?" is answered in verse #9 by showing us that the answer is to consistently obey the Word of God.

Verse #10 is a verse of intense intentionality. We must not desire to obey the Word, but to a greater extent, he desired to know and commune with God Himself, "With my whole heart I have sought You." The more a person's heart is set on holiness, the more he dreads falling into sin – verse 10b, "Oh, not let me wander from your commandments."

Verse #11 – Here, the Word of God is treated more precious than gold. He did not wear the Word on his heart as a charm but hid it in his heart as a rule. He laid it up in the place of love and life. He did not just obey the Word. He loved the Word. He remembers the Word not just as a mere feat of memory but as the joyful act of affection, "That I might not sin against Thee."

- ☒ Here is the best thing - Thy Word;
- ☒ Hidden in the best place – in my heart;
- ☒ For the best purposes – That I might not sin against Thee.

Note he sees sin as sinning against God and he does not want to disappoint God. How do you view sin?