

An open Bible lies flat on a dark wooden surface. The pages are filled with text, and the book is illuminated by a warm, golden light from a setting or rising sun in the background. The sun is positioned behind the Bible, creating a bright glow and casting long, soft shadows. The background shows a blurred landscape of trees and hills under a hazy, orange sky.

Delighting in God's Path: The Safety of the Single-Minded Psalm 119:113-120

Mike Hogue
May 17, 2026

















The President's Award

Presented to

Jerry Hull

In grateful recognition of your immeasurable contributions to the children's ministry of Walk Thru the Bible over five decades of faithful and skillful service.

You created the prototype for the groundbreaking Kids in the Book program, and trained the first Kids instructors in North America and internationally. From those early programs, motivated by your heart for children and families, we built the Kids ministry of today, which served over two million children in FY2025 alone. Walk Thru the Bible has been forever changed by your vision and dedication to ensuring that children everywhere learn the big picture of Scripture and to love its Author.

*"...we will tell the next generation
the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD,
his power, and the wonders he has done."
Psalm 78:4*

April 21, 2026









An open Bible lies flat on a rustic wooden surface. The pages are filled with text, and the book is illuminated by a warm, golden light from a setting or rising sun in the background. The sun is positioned behind the Bible, creating a bright glow and casting long, soft shadows. The background shows a blurred landscape of trees and hills under a hazy, orange sky.

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Mike Hogue
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Hebrew Letters in Psalm 119

| | | |
|---|--------|-----|
| א | Aleph | 1 |
| ב | Bet | 2 |
| ג | Gimel | 3 |
| ד | Daleth | 4 |
| ה | He | 5 |
| ו | Vav | 6 |
| ז | Zayin | 7 |
| ח | Heth | 8 |
| ט | Teth | 9 |
| י | Yodh | 10 |
| כ | Kaph | 20 |
| ל | Lamedh | 30 |
| מ | Mem | 40 |
| נ | Nun | 50 |
| ס | Samekh | 60 |
| ע | Ayin | 70 |
| פ | Pe | 80 |
| צ | Tsadhe | 90 |
| ק | Qoph | 100 |
| ר | Resh | 200 |
| ש | Shin | 300 |
| ת | Tav | 400 |

ס

Samekh

113 סַעֲפִים שְׁנֵאתִי וְתוֹרַתְךָ אֶהְבֹּתִי:

114 סִתְּרִי וּמִגְנֵי אֶתָּה לְדַבְרֶךָ יַחֲלֵתִי:

115 סוּרוּ-מִמֶּנִּי מֵרַעִים וְאַצְרָה מִצֹּת אֱלֹהִי:

116 סִמְכֵנִי כְּאִמְרַתְךָ וְאַחִיה וְאַל-תְּבִישְׁנִי מִשְׁבָּרִי:

117 סַעֲדֵנִי וְאַוְשַׁעָה וְאַנְשַׁעָה בְּחֻקֶיךָ תָּמִיד:

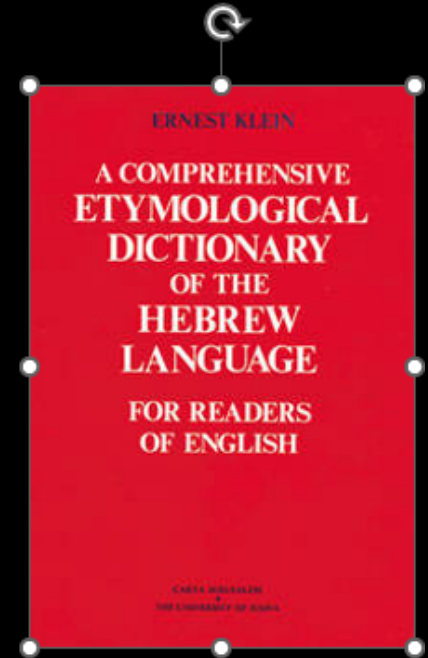
118 סִלֵּית כָּל-שׁוֹגִים מִחֻקֶיךָ כִּי-שָׁקַר תִּרְמִיתָם:

119 סִגִּים הַשַּׁבָּת כָּל-רְשָׁעֵי-אָרֶץ לֹכְזֵי אֶהְבֹּתִי עֲדֹתֶיךָ:

120 סִמַּר מִפֶּחַדְךָ בְּשָׂרִי וּמִמְשַׁפְּטֶיךָ יִרְאֵתִי:

Psalm 119:113–120 (BHS OT)

סָמֶךְ (pl. סְמָכִין) 'Samekh', name of the fifteenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet. [The name סָמֶךְ prob. derives from סמך and **lit. means 'support, fulcrum'**, the letter having been so called in allusion to its parent Heb. form.]



ס

Samekh

113 סַעֲפִים שְׁנֵאתִי וְתוֹרַתְךָ אֶהְבֹּתִי:

114 סִתְרִי וּמַגִּנִּי אֶתְּהָ לְדַבְרֶךָ יַחֲלֹתִי:

115 סוּרוּ-מִמֶּנִּי מֵרַעִים וְאַצְרָה מִצּוֹת אֱלֹהִי:

116 סָמְכֵנִי כְּאִמְרַתְךָ וְאַחִיָּה וְאַל-תִּבְיַשְׁנִי מִשְׁבָּרִי:

117 סַעֲדֵנִי וְאַוְשַׁעָה וְאַשַׁעָה בְּחַקִּיךָ תִּמְיֵד:

118 סְלִית כָּל-שׁוֹגִים מִחַקִּיךָ כִּי-שֶׁקֶר תִּרְמִיתָם:

119 סִגִּים הַשְּׁבֶתָּה כָּל-רִשְׁעֵי-אֶרֶץ לָכֵן אֶהְבֹּתִי עֲדֹתֶיךָ:

120 סִמַּר מִפִּחְדְּךָ בְּשָׂרִי וּמִמִּשְׁפָּטֶיךָ יִרְאֵתִי:

Psalm 119:113–120 (BHS OT)

¹¹⁶**Sustain** me according to Your word,
that I may live; And do not let me be
ashamed of my hope.

Psalm 119:116 (NASB 2020)

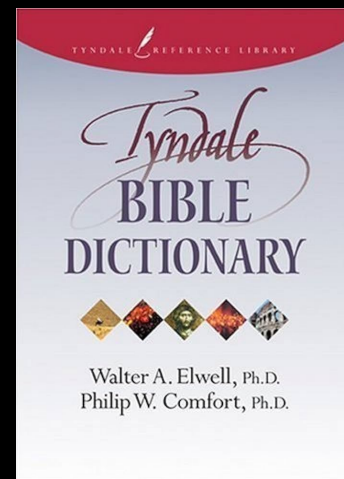
¹¹⁷Sustain me so that **I may be safe,**
That I may have regard for Your
statutes continually.

Psalm 119:117 (NASB 2020)

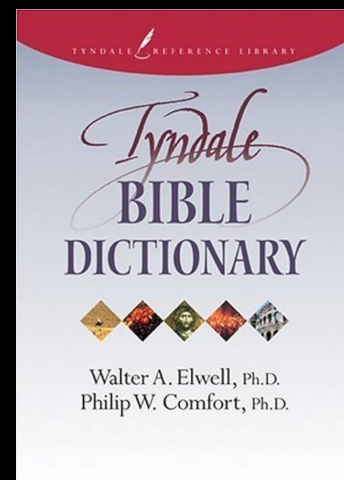
¹¹³I hate those who are **double-**
 minded, But I love Your Law.

Psalm 119:113 (NASB 2020)

Since in the OT there was no separate word that could be used for the human mind, translators of the English versions have supplied other words (“soul,” “spirit,” or “heart”), as the context dictates. Thus, precise distinctions among these terms are hard to define. A person is a soul, having a spirit and a heart. Any of these terms may represent the mind. This means that the widely held distinction between the mind as the seat of thinking and the heart as the seat of feeling is alien to the meanings these terms carry in the OT.



While the “mind” denotes a person’s thoughts, the prominent idea of “mind” in the OT is that it denotes the heart (1 Sm 2:35; Ez 11:5; 20:32). The heart is often intended to include the entire inner person and thus often relates especially to the mind. In these instances it relates primarily to the functions of will and memory (Is 46:8; 65:17; Jer 3:16).



¹¹Teach me Your way, Lord; I will walk
in Your truth; **Unite my heart to fear
Your name.**

Psalm 86:11 (NASB 2020)

An open Bible lies flat on a dark wooden surface. The pages are illuminated by a warm, golden light from a setting or rising sun in the background, which is slightly out of focus. The sun's rays create a soft glow over the entire scene. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

Delighting in God's Path: The Safety of the Single-Minded Psalm 119:113-120

Mike Hogue
May 17, 2026



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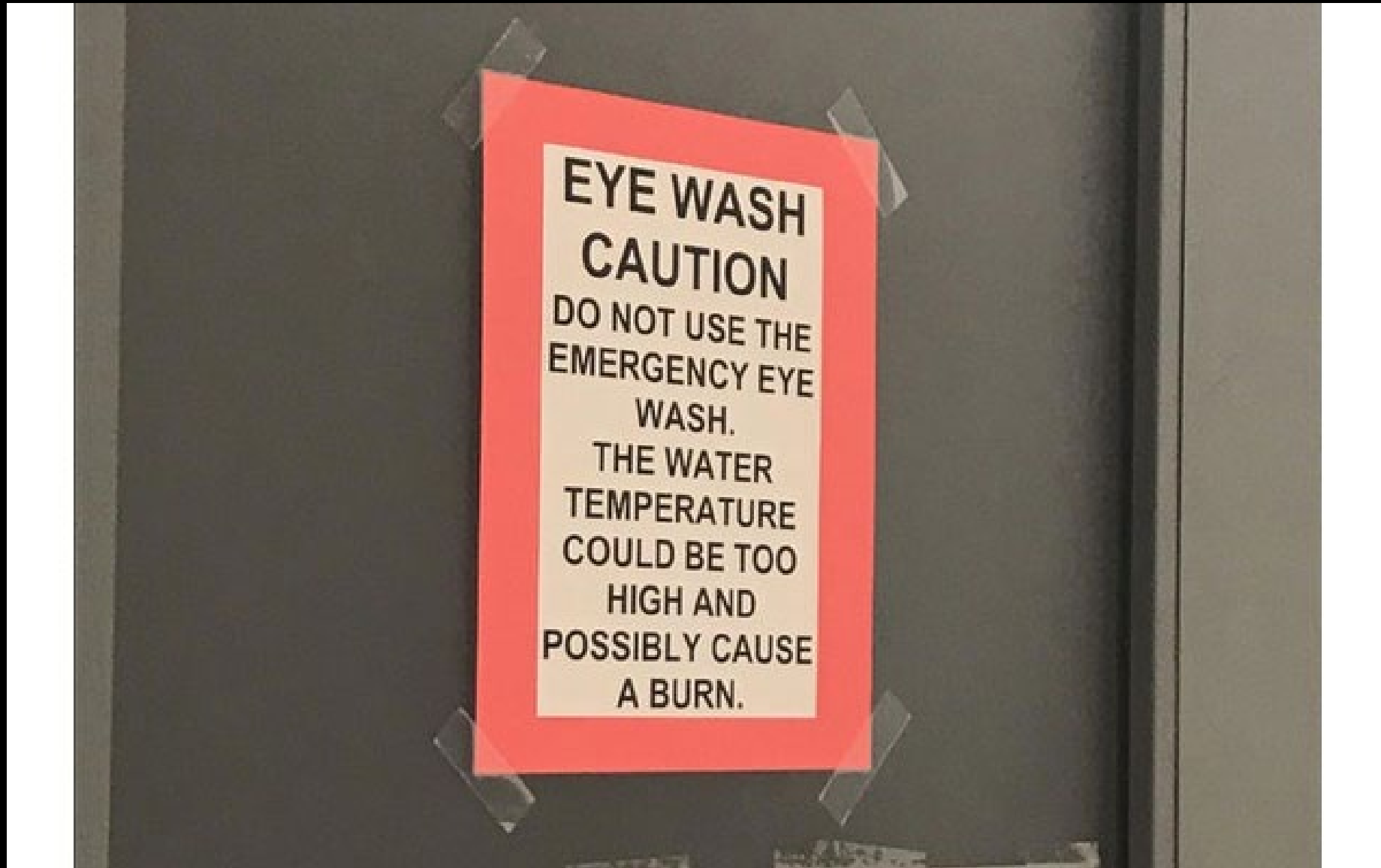
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Psalm 119:113-120

The Safety of the Single-Hearted

The single-hearted person is:

_____ to God's Word (119:113)

_____ by God (119:114)

_____ from the World (119:115)

_____ on God (119:116-117)

_____ of God's judgment (119:118-119)

_____ before God (119:120)

The Safety of the Single-Hearted

The single-hearted person is:

1. Devoted to God's Word (119:113)

_____ by God (119:114)

_____ from the World (119:115)

_____ on God (119:116-117)

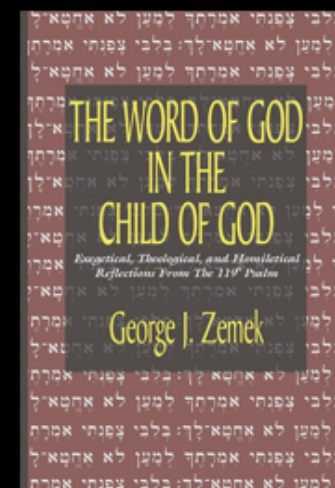
_____ of God's judgment (119:118-119)

_____ before God (119:120)

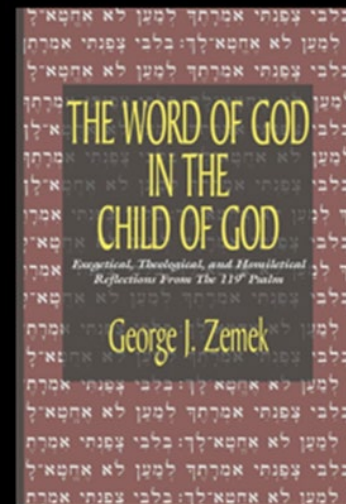
¹¹³ I hate those who are double-minded,
But I love Your Law.

Psalm 119:113 (NASB 2020)

Love and hate show themselves regularly throughout the progress of this psalm's 176 verses. These antonyms, grouped in such a compact bicolon as verse 113, make the antithesis all the more dramatic. In contrast with love, the שִׂנְאָה (śānē) word group in the OT often “expresses an emotional attitude toward persons and things which are opposed, detested, despised and with which one wishes to have no contact or relationship.”



Vindication of this disciple's attitude comes via his designation of those persons hated as half-hearted or double-minded.



²⁰So Ahab sent *orders* among all the sons of Israel and brought the prophets together at Mount Carmel. ²¹Then Elijah approached all the people and said, “How long are you going to struggle with the **two choices**? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people did not answer him *so much as a word*.

1 Kings 18:20–21 (NASB 2020)



Then the fire
of the LORD fell
and consumed the
bull and the
stones and the dust,
and also licked up
the water that was
in the trench.

1 Kings 18:38

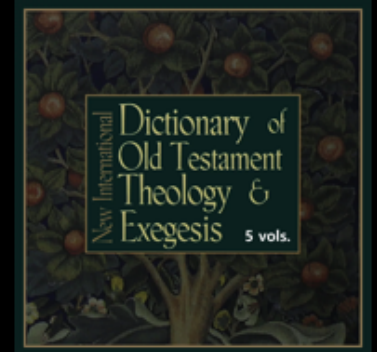
⁵But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. ⁶But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷For that person ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, ⁸*being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

James 1:5–8 (NASB 2020)

¹¹³I hate those who are double-minded,
But I love Your Law.

Psalm 119:113 (NASB 2020)

אָהַב nuances an interpersonal associative event, which generally expresses the (human) **obligatory maintaining of the covenant relationship** with the covenant God, Yahweh, in faithful service and obedient adherence to his commandments...In most of these instances there is also a secondary or supplementary component belonging to the semantic domain of **emotive event**, expressing a personal feeling of love of the Israelite for Yahweh, in some instances as a grateful response to his deeds of redemption and care.



⁴“You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath, or in the water under the earth.

⁵You shall not worship them nor serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, inflicting the punishment of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶but showing favor to thousands, to those **who love Me and keep My commandments.**

Exodus 20:4–6 (NASB 2020)

²³Jesus answered and said to him, “**If anyone loves Me, he will follow My word;** and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make *Our* dwelling with him. ²⁴The one who **does not love Me does not follow My words;** and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s who sent Me.

John 14:23–24 (NASB 2020)

The Safety of the Single-Hearted

The single-hearted person is:

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 by God (119:114)
 from the World (119:115)
 on God (119:116-117)
 of God's judgment (119:118-119)
 before God (119:120)

The Safety of the Single-Hearted

The single-hearted person is:

1. Devoted to God's Word (119:113)

2. Defended by God (119:114)

_____ from the World (119:115)

_____ on God (119:116-117)

_____ of God's judgment (119:118-119)

_____ before God (119:120)

¹¹⁴You are my **hiding place** and my shield; I wait for Your word.

Psalm 119:114 (NASB 2020)

Translation NASB 2020



⁴Let me dwell in Your tent forever; Let me take refuge in the **shelter** of Your wings. Selah

Psalm 61:4 (NASB 2020)

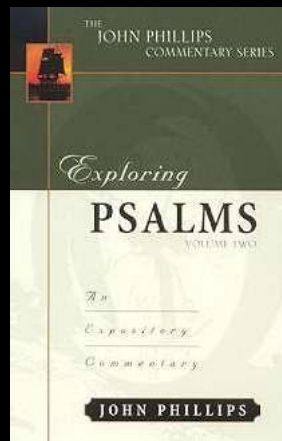
²Each will be like a refuge from the
wind And a **shelter** from the storm,
Like streams of water in a dry
country, Like the shade of a huge
rock in an exhausted land.

Isaiah 32:2 (NASB 2020)

¹¹⁴You are my hiding place and my **shield**; I wait for Your word.

Psalm 119:114 (NASB 2020)

“Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in Thy word.” We need a hiding place when danger threatens: we need a shield when danger makes its thrust. A hiding place suggests that the danger, though real enough, is not yet at hand. It can still be averted perhaps. A shield is needed when the hiding place no longer affords protection. The danger has become immediate, a present-tense peril.



²⁷My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ²⁸and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; and **no one will snatch them out of My hand.**

John 10:27–28 (NASB 2020)

²Set your minds on the things *that are* above, not on the things that are on earth. ³For you have died, and **your life is hidden with Christ in God.**

⁴When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

Colossians 3:2–4 (NASB 2020)

³But the Lord is faithful, and **He will strengthen and protect you** from the evil one.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 (NASB 2020)

The Safety of the Single-Hearted

The single-hearted person is:

1. Devoted to God's Word (119:113)

2. Defended by God (119:114)

_____ from the World (119:115)

_____ on God (119:116-117)

_____ of God's judgment (119:118-119)

_____ before God (119:120)

The Safety of the Single-Hearted

The single-hearted person is:

1. Devoted to God's Word (119:113)
2. Defended by God (119:114)
3. Distinct from the World (119:115)
_____ on God (119:116-117)
_____ of God's judgment (119:118-119)
_____ before God (119:120)

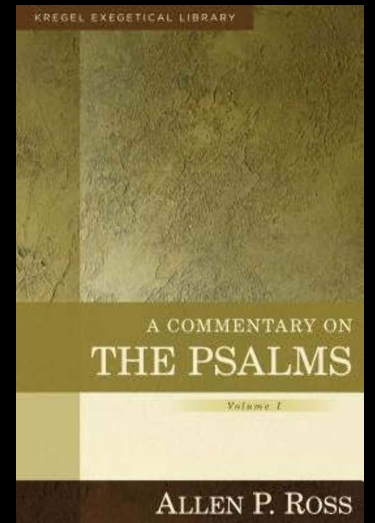
¹¹⁵**Leave me**, you evildoers, So that I
may comply with the commandments
of my God.

Psalm 119:115 (NASB 2020)

¹⁰²I have not **turned aside** from Your judgments, For You Yourself have taught me.

Psalm 119:102 (NASB 2020)

Typical of laments in general, the psalmist turns to address the evildoers (e.g., see Ps. 6:8). He says, “Depart from me ... that I may keep the commandments of my God.” It is a demand for the wicked to leave him alone so that he can hold to God’s word in his life. He could maintain such a commitment to the word even if they did not depart; but if they left him alone, however, he would be free to do more in his service of God.



³³Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.”

1 Corinthians 15:33 (NASB 2020)

¹⁴Do not be mismatched with unbelievers; for what do righteousness and lawlessness share together, or what does light have in common with darkness?

2 Corinthians 6:14 (NASB 2020)

⁹I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral people; ¹⁰I *did not at all mean with the sexually immoral people of this world*, or with the greedy and swindlers, or with idolaters, for then you would have to leave the world. ¹¹But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is a sexually immoral person, or a greedy person, or an idolater, or is verbally abusive, or habitually drunk, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a person.

1 Corinthians 5:9–11 (NASB 2020)



<https://www.vecteezy.com/video/8962753-engineering-dirty-white-cloth-gloves>

¹⁴As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts *which were yours* in your ignorance, ¹⁵but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; ¹⁶because it is written: “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”

1 Peter 1:14–16 (NASB 2020)

¹¹⁵Leave me, you evildoers, **So that I may comply** with the commandments of my God.

Psalm 119:115 (NASB 2020)

**"DO NOT make Me use MY
COMPLIANCE PERSON VOICE!"**



Diana Zourelis

April 15, 2019

<https://www.aim-system.com/blog/beware-of-compliance-person-voice>



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COMPLIANCE

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It's that we've built an entire system
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נָצַר (nāṣar)

1. to keep watch, watch over,
keep from
2. to protect, preserve
3. to observe, comply with



³³Teach me, the way of Your statutes, LORD, And I shall comply with it to the end. ³⁴Give me understanding, **so that I may comply with Your Law And keep it with all *my* heart**. ³⁵Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it. ³⁶Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And not to *dishonest* gain. ³⁷Turn my eyes away from looking at what is worthless, And revive me in Your ways. ³⁸Establish Your word to Your servant As that which produces reverence for You.

Psalm 119:33–38 (NASB 2020)

³³Teach me, the way of Your statutes, LORD, And I shall comply with it to the end. ³⁴Give me understanding, so that I may comply with Your Law And keep it with all *my* heart. ³⁵Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it. ³⁶Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And not to *dishonest* gain. ³⁷Turn my eyes away from looking at what is worthless, And revive me in Your ways. ³⁸Establish Your word to Your servant As that which produces reverence for You.

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Psalm 119:33–38 (NASB 2020)

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The Safety of the Single-Hearted

The single-hearted person is:

1. Devoted to God's Word (119:113)

2. Defended by God (119:114)

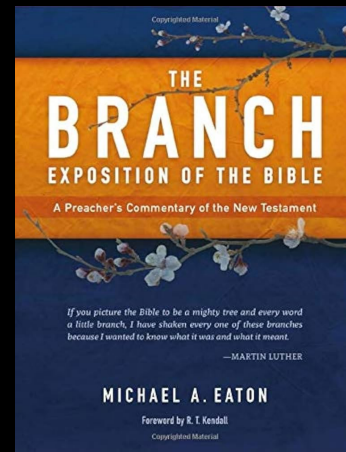
3. Distinct from the World (119:115)

_____ on God (119:116-117)

_____ of God's judgment (119:118-119)

_____ before God (119:120)

The section seems to have an A-B-C-C-B-A structure, for the thoughts that follow have a relationship to the thoughts that we have seen already.



God the hiding place, 119:113–114

The sharp separation: believers and the wicked,
119:115

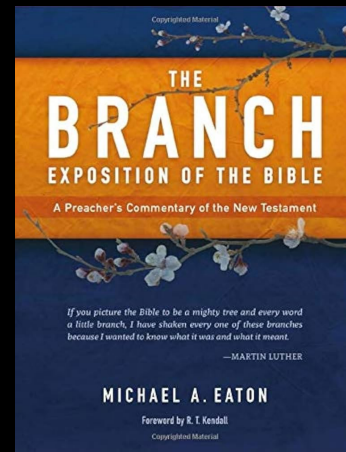
God the One who upholds us, 119:116

God the One who upholds us, 119:117

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God the Destroyer, 119:119–120

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119:115

God the One who upholds us, 119:116

God the One who upholds us, 119:117

The sharp separation: believers and God, 119:118

God the Destroyer, 119:119–120



¹¹⁶**Sustain me** according to Your word,
that I may live; And do not let me be
ashamed of my hope.

¹¹⁷**Sustain me** so that I may be safe,
That I may have regard for Your
statutes continually.

Psalm 119:116–117 (NASB 2020)

²“For they name themselves after the holy city, And **lean on** the God of Israel; The LORD of armies is His name.

Isaiah 48:2 (NASB 2020)

²¹Now behold, you have relied on the support of this broken reed, on Egypt; on which if a man **leans**, it will go into his hand and pierce it. That is how Pharaoh king of Egypt is to all who rely on him.

2 Kings 18:21 (NASB 2020)



⁵Now on the fourth day they got up early in the morning, and he prepared to go; but the girl's father said to his son-in-law, "**Strengthen** yourself with a piece of bread, and afterward you may go."

Judges 19:5 (NASB 2020)

³The LORD will **sustain** him upon his sickbed; In his illness, You restore him to health.

Psalm 41:3 (NASB 2020)

¹⁶But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

Galatians 5:16 (NASB 2020)

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in
the strength of His might.

Ephesians 6:10 (NASB 2020)

²⁸We proclaim Him, admonishing every person and teaching every person with all wisdom, so that we may present every person complete in Christ. ²⁹For this purpose I also labor, striving **according to His power which works mightily within me.**

Colossians 1:28–29 (NASB 2020)

⁴Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself but must remain in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you remain in Me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches; **the one who remains in Me, and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.**

John 15:4–5 (NASB 2020)

The Safety of the Single-Hearted

The single-hearted person is:

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2. Defended by God (119:114)
3. Distinct from the World (119:115)
4. Dependent on God (119:116-117)
5. Discerning of God's judgment (119:118-119)
 before God (119:120)

¹¹⁸You have rejected all those who stray from Your statutes, For their deceitfulness is **useless**.

¹¹⁹You have removed all the wicked of the earth *like* impurities; Therefore I love Your testimonies.

Psalm 119:118–119 (NASB 2020)

¹⁷A horse is a **false** hope for victory;
Nor does it rescue anyone by its
great strength.

Psalm 33:17 (NASB 2020)

²⁰If we had forgotten the name of our
God Or extended our hands to a
strange god, ²¹Would God not find
this out? For He knows the secrets of
the heart.

Psalm 44:20–21 (NASB 2020)

⁵Therefore do not go on passing judgment before *the* time, *but wait* until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of *human* hearts; and then praise will come to each person from God.

1 Corinthians 4:5 (NASB 2020)

²But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. ³Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed on the housetops.

Luke 12:2–3 (NASB 2020)

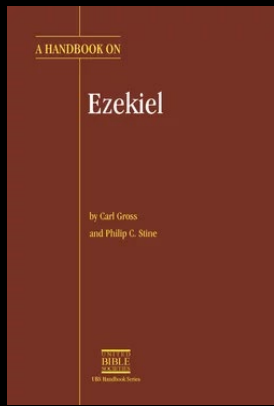
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Psalm 119:118–119 (NASB 2020)

The process of refining the silver was as follows: Workmen fed crushed material that contained the raw silver together with a mixture of metals and impurities such as sand and rubble into a fire.

Sometimes they used a special dish in which to hold the mixture. The heat caused the metal to melt and sink to the bottom. The impurities floated on the top and the workmen removed them. They then allowed the metal to cool and become solid. After that they heated it again to a higher temperature to separate the silver from the other metals; these floated to the top from where the workmen could remove them.



⁹Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive compensation for his deeds *done* through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5:9–10 (NASB 2020)

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The Safety of the Single-Hearted

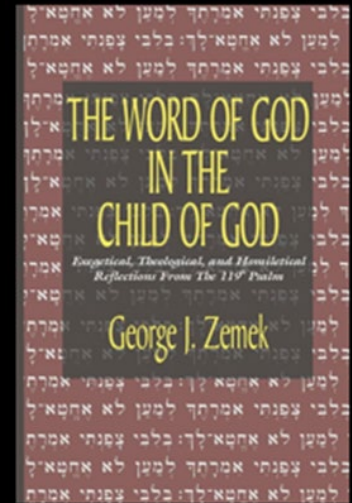
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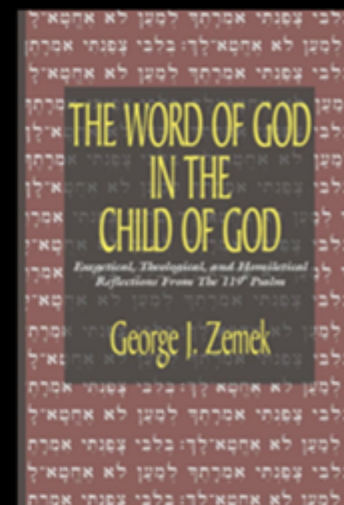
¹²⁰My flesh trembles from the fear of
You, And I am afraid of Your
judgments.

Psalm 119:120 (NASB 2020)

The imagery pertaining to the psalmist in verse 120a is just as arresting as that which pertained to the wicked in verse 119a. To paint his fear in iridescent colors the disciple speaks of “his flesh” bristling up. Several nuances are possible; for example, his flesh may be pictured as creeping; his hair may be envisioned as standing on end; or, his person might be viewed as trembling or shuddering.



No matter how the imagery is cast, the psalmist's characteristic experience was precipitated by פַּחַד־יְהוָה (paḥdeḱā), i.e. “the terror of God.” An echo of the dread of the LORD (v. 120a) is his fear of the law (v. 120b). In other words, fearing these judgments constitutes an important dimension of fearing the Judge; therefore, both assertions evidence the genuine wisdom and true knowledge of a child of God.



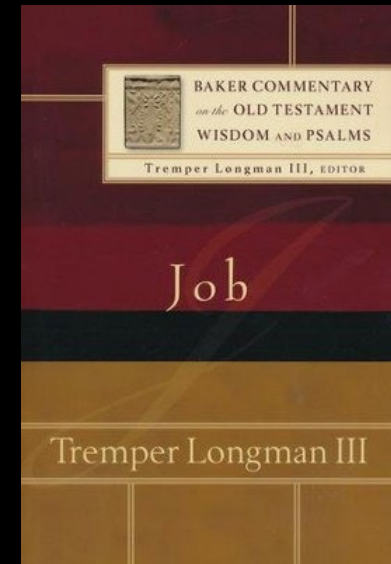
¹²⁰I shiver in awe before you; your
decisions leave me speechless with
reverence.

Psalm 119:120 (MSG)

28“And to mankind He said, ‘Behold,
the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom;
And to turn away from evil is
understanding.’ ”

Job 28:28 (NASB 2020)

The type of fear described here is not horror that makes one run away, and it is not merely the idea of respect. **It is most like awe, a kind of knee-knocking fear that one feels in the presence of a vastly more powerful, even though benevolent, person.** It is the kind of emotion that removes pride and replaces it with humility, which as Proverbs indicates (1:7) is a prerequisite to wisdom.





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2. Defended by God (119:114)
3. Distinct from the World (119:115)
4. Dependent on God (119:116-117)
5. Discerning of God's judgment (119:118-119)
6. Daunted before God (119:120)

Application

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Application

- Pray Psalm 86:11 daily this week
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¹¹Teach me Your way, Lord; I will walk
in Your truth; **Unite my heart to fear
Your name.**

Psalm 86:11 (NASB 2020)

Application

- Pray Psalm 86:11 daily this week
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Application

- Pray Psalm 86:11 daily this week
- Examine where your heart is divided
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Application

- Pray Psalm 86:11 daily this week
- Examine where your heart is divided
- Run to the Word