

So Shall I Keep Thy Law Continually
Psalm 119:44-48

In **Psalm 119:44-48** the psalmist declared, “So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever. And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts. I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed. And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved. My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes.”

In **Psalm 119:41-44** the psalmist expressed two requests unto the Lord. In the first place, the psalmist prayed for the Lord’s merciful deliverance; and in the second place, he prayed for the Lord’s unfailing faithfulness. In addition, the psalmist joined an intended response with each of these requests. With the second request, the request for the Lord’s unfailing faithfulness, the young man of God expressed his own commitment of faithful obedience. In **verse 44** he declared, “So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever.” Having prayed for the Lord to be faithful for his sake, the psalmist then committed himself unto faithful obedience for the Lord’s sake. In fact, beginning with this commitment to faithful obedience, the young man of God expressed a series of six commitment statements throughout **verses 44-48**, all flowing out of the commitment unto faithful obedience. Thereby the psalmist revealed a set of realities in the walk of faithful obedience.

Reality #1: Faithful Obedience

The first reality of faithful obedience is the commitment to faithful obedience itself. No other reality of faithful obedience can exist if faithful obedience itself does not exist. Indeed, before all else we must commit ourselves unto faithful obedience toward the Lord our God. First, we must have a heart of honor for our Lord’s authority over us. In **verse 44** the psalmist stated, “So shall I keep *thy* law.” He had a focus upon the Lord and upon the Lord’s place of authority over his life. Indeed, “the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom” (See **Psalm 111:10a**); and the fear of the Lord involves honor and reverence for the Lord’s place of authority in our lives. Second, we must have a heart of submission unto our Lord’s law. Again, in **verse 44** the psalmist stated, “So shall I keep thy *law*.” In His authority over us, the Lord our God most certainly does have a law for us to obey in our daily walk. Our lives are not our own to do whatever we please. Our lives are His to live in a manner that pleases Him. Thus He calls us to deny ourselves, to take up our cross of submission daily, and to follow Him in daily obedience. (See **Luke 9:23**) Third, we must obey the Lord every step of our daily walk. Yet again, in **verse 44** the psalmist stated, “So shall I keep thy law *continually*.” This is not a matter of singular obedience, or of momentary obedience, or of occasional obedience, or of sporadic obedience. Rather, this is a matter of continual, step by step by step by step, obedience. This is a pattern of obedience that extends throughout each day, and that quickly gets right with the Lord after disobedience and quickly returns unto the walk of obedience. Fourth, we must continue obeying the Lord throughout our entire lives. Indeed, in **verse 44** the psalmist stated, “So shall I keep thy law continually *for ever and ever*.” Such must become the objective of our hearts and lives – that we will continue obeying our Lord and His law throughout our entire lives unto the end, so that we may finish our life’s course with joy, being approved of our Lord as good and faithful servants. We must incline our hearts to perform our Lord’s statutes “always, even unto the end.” (See **Psalm 119:112**)

Reality #2: Spiritual Confidence

In **verse 45** the young man of God then expressed the second reality of faithful obedience, saying, “And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts.” This is the reality of spiritual confidence. Herein the psalmist was not speaking about freedom from problems within the circumstances of life. Rather, he was speaking about spiritual freedom within the character of his inner man. Faithful obedience unto our Lord provides us with spiritual liberty in our character, and that spiritual liberty fills us with spiritual confidence for life. In **John 8:31-32** our Lord Jesus Christ proclaimed, “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” Indeed, the Law of our Lord is “the perfect law of liberty;” and as we walk in faithful obedience to it, we shall find spiritual liberty and blessing in our lives. (See **James 1:25**) First, we shall find freedom from the bondage of sin and unrighteousness. In **Psalm 119:9** the psalmist proclaimed, “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.” Second, we shall find freedom from the oppression of fear and worry. In **Psalm 119:165** the psalmist proclaimed, “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend [spiritually overthrow] them.”

Reality #3: Unashamed Proclamation

In **verse 46** the young man of God expressed the third reality of faithful obedience, saying, “I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed.” This is the reality of unashamed proclamation. As we have noted, faithful obedience unto our Lord provides us with spiritual liberty in character, which in turn fills us with spiritual confidence for life. Flowing from this spiritual confidence is the spiritual boldness to proclaim our Lord’s truth without any shame therein. For this reason the apostle Paul declared in **Romans 1:16**, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” Worldly wisdom is faulty and vain. The wisdom of God’s Word is “true and righteous altogether.” (See **Psalm 19:9**) Yeah, the wisdom of God’s Holy Word stands far above the wisest of this world, even above any human leader or human expert. Even so, faithful obedience to God’s Word is our wisdom and our understanding in the sight of the world around us. (See **Deuteronomy 4:6**) Therefore, upon the ground of that perfectly true and righteous wisdom, we may boldly stand to speak forth the wisdom of God’s Holy Word without any shame in any context before any audience.

Reality #4: Delighted Understanding

In **verse 47** the young man of God expressed the fourth reality of faithful obedience, saying, “And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved.” This is the reality of delighted understanding. Indeed, the more that we walk in faithful obedience to God’s Word of truth, the more wonderful and wise we will discover it to be. In turn, the more wonderful and wise we discover God’s Word of truth to be, the more we will desire and delight to learn and understand thereof. As newborn babes hunger for milk, so we will hunger more and more and more for “the sincere milk of the word,” in order that we may grow spiritually thereby. (See **1 Peter 2:2**) First, we will delight ourselves in learning more of God’s truth and wisdom. Then we will delight ourselves in walking after God’s truth and wisdom.

Reality #5: Diligent Study

In the opening portion of **verse 48**, the young man of God expressed the fifth reality of faithful obedience, saying, “My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved.” This is the reality of diligent study. In Biblical times lifting up one’s hands was a common practice in the context of prayer; and in that context it conveyed a sense of need, desire, and diligent supplication. Even so, when the psalmist used the picture of lifting up his hands unto God’s Word, he was conveying a sense of need, desire, and diligent interest in the truth and wisdom of God’s Word. As such, this picture would portray the idea of putting forth the effort to get a hold of God’s Word and to study its contents with diligence. Indeed, the diligent pursuit of **2 Timothy 2:15** is a reality in the life of faithful obedience – “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Reality #6: Biblical Mediation

Finally, in the closing portion of **Psalms 119:48**, the young man of God expressed the sixth reality of faithful obedience, saying, “And I will meditate in thy statutes.” When we delight to learn and obey God’s Word of truth, then we are moved to study it with diligence; and as we study it with diligence, we are moved to meditate therein for guidance. Indeed, meditation in God’s Word is naturally joined with love for and delight in God’s Word. In **Psalms 119:14-16** the psalmist proclaimed, “I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.” Again in **verse 97** he exclaimed, “O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day.” In addition, meditation in God’s Word is naturally joined with understanding and guidance for life. In **Psalms 119:23-24** the psalmist declared, “Princes also did sit and speak against me: but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes. Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors.” Again in **verse 99** he acknowledged, “I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.”