

Directing Our Ways to Keep God's Word
(Part 3)
Psalm 119:5

Psalm 119:1-8 reads, “Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways. Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments. I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments. I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly.”

Four times in the first eight-verse section of **Psalm 119** the word “keep” is employed with regard to keeping God’s Holy Word. In fact, throughout the psalm the words “keep” and “kept” are employed twenty-nine times in twenty-nine different verses. This is almost one fifth of the verses in the psalm, and unto this might be added the various reference to walking in obedience unto God’s Word. Certainly then, one of the primary themes of **Psalm 119** is the need to direct our ways to keep God’s Word. Even so, within the opening section of the psalm, in **verse 5** the psalmist exclaimed so passionately, “O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes!” What then do we learn from **Psalm 119** concerning this matter of directing our ways to keep God’s Word? Already in the first two parts of the message, we have learned that keeping God’s Word is the prerequisite for the Lord’s blessing, is the Lord’s plan for our daily lives, should be the passion of our hearts, should be the practice of our daily living, should be the priority of our hearts and lives, should be the platform for our prayer lives, should be the purpose for our learning of God’s Word, and should be the pattern for our whole lives. In this third part of the message, let us consider three additional truths.

9. Keeping God’s Word should be the pleasure of our hearts.

In **verses 54-56** the psalmist expressed the pleasure of his heart, saying, “Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage. I have remembered thy name, O LORD, in the night, and have kept thy law. This I had, because I kept thy precepts.” Because he kept the precepts and principles of God’s Word, his heart was filled with joy. Because he walked in faithful obedience to God’s Word, his lips were filled with song. Indeed, keeping and obeying God’s Word was the pleasure of his heart. Even so, in **verses 127-131** the psalmist again expressed the pleasure of his heart, saying, “Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way. Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them. The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments.” Yet again in **verse 167** he expressed the pleasure of his heart, saying, “My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly.” Indeed, keeping God’s Word with faithful obedience should be the exceeding love of our hearts, far greater than our desire to obtain much material wealth. We should view the truth of God’s Word as right and righteous, wise and wonderful in all things, so that we find our greatest pleasure in following its light and in gleaning its understanding.

10. Keeping God's Word should be our policy because of the Lord's grace.

In **Psalm 119:55** the psalmist expressed the policy of his life, saying, "I have remembered thy name, O LORD, in the night, and have kept thy law." Again in **verse 57** he expressed the policy of his life, saying, "Thou art my portion, O LORD: I have said that I would keep thy words." The psalmist's policy of life was to keep God's Word with faithful obedience. Yet why was this the policy of his life? Through these two verses, the psalmist revealed that this was his policy because of the Lord's gracious hand in his life. He remembered the Lord's name and recognized that the Lord, by His abundant grace, was the true portion for His abundant life. Then in response to his focus upon the Lord's gracious hand in his life, the psalmist established his life policy to keep the Lord's Word throughout his life. In like manner, the Lord our God, by His abundant grace, is the true portion of our abundant Christian lives. He is our gracious Savior and our gracious Shepherd. By His abundant grace, we are saved eternally; and by His abundant grace, we are sanctified daily; and by His abundant grace, we are strengthened spiritually. Every good element in our lives on every level whatsoever finds its source in our Lord's abundant grace. How then should we respond unto our Lord's abundant grace in our lives? Because of His abundant grace, we should establish the life policy to keep His Holy Word with faithful obedience. Even so, in **1 Peter 2:2** the instruction is given, "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby." Then in **verse 3** the motivation is revealed, "If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious." Indeed, if we have placed our faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for eternal salvation, then we have tasted the wonderful goodness of our Lord's abundant grace through the gospel message. Because of this, we should be fervently motivated to learn more from God's Word, to grow more through God's Word, and to follow hard after God's Word.

11. Keeping God's Word should be the pursuit of our lives.

In **Psalm 119:59-60** the psalmist expressed the pursuit of his life, saying, "I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies. I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments." Herein the psalmist indicated his thoughtful examination and consideration of the direction for his life. He thoughtfully examined his past ways and thoughtfully considered his present direction. Then he made a purposeful decision. Yea, he purposefully decided to set the direction of his life upon a path of obedience to God's Word. He purposefully turned his feet to pursue after obedience to the truths of God's Word; and he purposefully engaged himself in that pursuit whole-heartedly, with haste and without hesitation. In like manner, we must thoughtfully consider the character of our ways, the course (direction) of our ways, and the consequences of our ways. Then we must purposefully choose to establish our ways in a whole-hearted pursuit of obedience to God's Holy Word. Even so, in **Proverbs 4:26-27** the instruction is given, "Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil." Indeed, we must take the time to ponder the path of our feet in relation to the truth of God's Word. Then we must establish all our ways according to the standard of God's Word. Yea, we must fervently and faithfully follow after the way of God's Word with haste and without hesitation, not allowing ourselves to turn away from it either to the right hand or to the left. Furthermore, we must fervently and faithfully flee away from the way of sinfulness with haste and without hesitation, in order that we may remain walking in obedience to God's Holy Word.