

**THE POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD  
PART 4—THE POWER TO CLEANSE!  
PSALM 119:9**

**INTRODUCTION**

For a several weeks now we've been looking at "*The Power Of The Word Of God!*".

**WE'VE SEEN HOW THAT THE WORD OF GOD HAS...**

**THE POWER TO CONVICT MEN OF SIN (both Sinner and Saint)...**

**THE POWER TO GIVE LIFE...**

**THE POWER TO PRODUCE FAITH...(Saving Faith, Prevailing Faith, and Victorious Faith!)**

**Today I want us to see a fourth power of the Word of God:**

**THE WORD OF GOD HAS THE POWER TO CLEANSE!**

**I. THE WORD OF GOD HAS THE POWER TO CLEANSE US INITIALLY! (i.e. THE CLEANSING OF SALVATION!)**

*1 Peter 1:23—"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever."*

**A. Consider Our Unclean Condition Before Salvation!**

*Romans 3:10-12—"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."*

*Romans 3:23—"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."*

*Isaiah 64:6—"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags;..."*

"unclean" = "foul in a religious sense" also translated as - defiled, polluted.

**THE POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD  
PART 4—THE POWER TO CLEANSE!  
PSALM 119:9**

We were spiritual lepers, if you will. In the Bible leprosy is a type of sin and uncleanness.

1. Leprosy made a person an outcast from community...  
Sin makes a person an outcast from God's presence...
2. Leprosy slowly deformed and destroyed a person...  
Sin slowly deforms and destroys a person's life...
3. Leprosy was incurable without divine intervention...  
Sin is incurable without divine intervention...  
*Matthew 8:2-3—"...there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean...3 Jesus touched him, saying, I will, be thou clean."*

**Ephesians 2:2-3**

**B. Consider What Our Unclean Condition Meant For Us!**

**1. Dead In Trespasses And Sin! (Ephesians 2:1)**

**2. Condemned Already!**

*John 3:18 He that believeth on him [JESUS] is not condemned: but he that believeth not is **condemned already**, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

**3. Blocked From The Heavenly City Of God And Its Glorious Blessing!**

*Revelation 21:27—"And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abominaion, or maketh a lie..."*

**C. Consider The Cleansing Available. (Ephesians 2:4-9)**

How is one made aware of the cleansing? The Word of God!

**THE POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD  
PART 4—THE POWER TO CLEANSE!  
PSALM 119:9**

*1 Corinthians 1:18—“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”*

*1 Corinthians 1:21—“For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”*

*THE WORD OF GOD HAS THE POWER TO CLEANSE US  
INITIALLY! (i.e. THE CLEANSING OF SALVATION!)*

**II. THE WORD OF GOD HAS THE POWER TO CLEANSE US  
CONTINUALLY! (i.e. THE CLEANSING OF OUR WAY OR  
SANCTIFICATION)**

This Psalm, Psalm 119 is the longest verse in the Bible!

As you read this Psalm in its entirety, you can see that the main point or argument of Psalm 119 is that **we should stir up ourselves with God's Word continually so that we might deeply establish our lives in the Lord! If you long for a deeper life with the LORD, listen closely! You'll not get deeper in the LORD apart from getting deeper in the Word!**

**The subject of this second section of this Psalm is that the Word of the Lord purifies the Life. We've seen how to get clean, but how can we keep clean? How can we keep our heart right?**

Keeping our life pure or right is accomplished by God's Word.

It is our guide, our compass, to keep us in God's Way!

Keeping our life pure is done by keeping our life lined up with God's Word.

The blessed work of sanctification is brought about in the heart by the Spirit of God, by means of the Word.

**THE POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD  
PART 4—THE POWER TO CLEANSE!  
PSALM 119:9**

Our text declares that a person cleanses his way (that is, his conduct) by heeding or by obeying God's Word!

**Psalm 1:1-6**

When we delight ourselves in God's Word we will hide it in our heart, meditate upon it, seek to obey it, and then seek to share it with others.

Both Psalm 1 and Psalm 119 show us that a person who internalizes God's Word will be blessed and his life established!

That is an immensely important question raised in Psalm 119:9.  
*“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way?”*

How can a young man (or woman) keep his way pure? The question concerns a young person, and their most difficult task, keeping their way pure!

Let's ask it this way: *“How do I get rid of these youthful sins, these wrong habits of my flesh?”*

The words, *“his way”* signifies **a track, a rut**, such as is made by the wheel of a cart or chariot. Every young person is making a rut, a beaten path, that they will most likely stay in the rest of his life!

This choices of life are hard for any person. But most will not ask themselves this most important question—*“How can I keep my way pure.”*

The LORD wants us to choose the pure, clean way and walk in it. Though it will be difficult in the best of circumstances, we must not shrink from living a pure and noble life.

**THE POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD**  
**PART 4—THE POWER TO CLEANSE!**  
**PSALM 119:9**

This world is drowning in a sea of impurity. Everywhere we look we are tempted to cast off restraints and to follow our flesh and lead impure lives!

The psalmist's question troubles not only the young person, but rather troubles us all! How do we stay pure in a filthy environment? We cannot accomplish this on our own, but we must have wise counsel and strength beyond ourselves that is more empowering than the tempting influences!

Where do we find that? Only in God and His Word!

Let the Word of God, which is likened to water (Ephesians 5:26), flood your soul and cleanse you constantly.  
*Ephesians 5:25-26* 25—“...Christ...loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”

For God's promised assistance we must turn to God's instructions!

The Bible must be our guide, and we must exercise great care that **our way**, that is, **our life**, is lived according to its directions.

Did you know that even with the most accurate map you can still lose your way if you don't follow it? The Word of God is a map for our lives! But we must read it and heed it!

We can sin without thought, but we, if we are to walk in the LORD's righteousness, we must read and heed the Word of God!

Soap and water are essential to cleanliness and personal hygiene. But those who neglect it soon become dirty and unacceptable to others. So too, believers who neglect God's Word, soon become defiled by the evils of this world.

**THE POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD**  
**PART 4—THE POWER TO CLEANSE!**  
**PSALM 119:9**

This defilement makes them unfit for fellowship with God and with other believers and unfit for service! But if we read and heed the Word of God, His cleansing power will pour in **and then** through us!

Each person, whether young or old, who desires to be holy, to have a pure heart, must keep the Scriptures primary in their lives. The Scriptures teach us the best way of living, the noblest way of suffering, and the most blessed way of dying.

The psalmist makes a confession worthy of emulating in Psalm 119:10. *"With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments."*

Though we may have a desire to seek God, we often do so feebly, because, by not keeping our way according to the Word, sin has gained dominion over us. We get so caught up in our life habits that our pursuit of God is anemic and weak. Though we know to live better, we cannot do better. Not until we seek God with our whole heart!

As we wrap this up I want us to see Jesus address this subject in **John 15:1-5 (esp. vs 3)**.

The word translated “*clean*” here in verse 3 means “*free from impure admixture, without blemish, spotless.*”

In **John 13:10**, when the Lord Jesus washed His disciples feet, He had already taught them that one who has been entirely cleansed needs not to be entirely cleansed again, but only to be cleansed from the dirt picked up from living in this world.

If you want a clean life...one that has the blessings of God attached to it, you must wash often by bringing your life into contact with the Word of God each day!

**THE POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD**  
**PART 4—THE POWER TO CLEANSE!**  
**PSALM 119:9**

**Conclusion**

Let me ask in closing...

Have you received that initial cleansing of the Word of God?  
Has anyone shared with you the Gospel of Jesus Christ from the Word of God?  
Have you believed the Gospel of Jesus Christ?  
Have you been born into the family of God?

The Word of God has the power to cleanse you of that inward sin that you were born with that separates you from God and from eternal life in Him!  
Why not come and receive that cleansing today?

If you have received that initial cleansing, are you in the Word each day receiving that daily cleansing of your way?

Only the Word of God has the power to cleanse your daily life and help you walk in the way that pleases God—i.e. The Christ life! (The way)

**Why not commit today to get into the Word of God each and every day asking the Lord to cleanse your way by showing you His way and helping you walk in His way each and every day!**