

Directing Our Ways to Keep God's Word
(Part 5)
Psalms 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 four 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, should be the pattern for our whole lives, should be the pleasure of our hearts, should be our policy because of the Lord’s grace, should be the pursuit of our lives; should be the principle for our friendships; should be our persuasion under the Lord’s chastening; and should be our perseverance against persecution. In this fifth part of the message, let us consider two additional truths.

15. Keeping God’s Word should be our promise toward the Lord’s deliverance.

In **Psalm 119:85-87** the psalmist revealed the affliction and oppression under which he suffered, saying, “The proud have digged pits for me, which are not after thy law. All thy commandments are faithful: they persecute me wrongfully; help thou me. They had almost consumed me upon earth; but I forsook not thy precepts.” Then in **verse 88** he expressed his prayer to the Lord for deliverance and his promise toward the Lord’s deliverance, saying, “Quicken me after thy lovingkindness; so shall I keep the testimony of thy mouth.” Again in **verse 134** he expressed his prayer to the Lord for deliverance and his promise toward the Lord’s deliverance, saying, “Deliver me from the oppression of man: so will I keep thy precepts.” Yet again in **verses 145-146** he expressed his prayer to the Lord for deliverance and his promise toward the Lord’s deliverance, saying, “I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O LORD: I will keep thy statutes. I cried unto thee; save me, and I shall keep thy testimonies.” Again and again the psalmist expressed his prayer for the Lord to deliver him out of his affliction. Then again and again the psalmist expressed his promise toward the Lord’s deliverance that he would fervently and faithfully keep the statutes and

standards, precepts and principles, commands and counsels of God's Holy Word. In like manner, we also should express our promise toward our Lord's gracious deliverance to walk fervently and faithfully in obedience unto His Word. Certainly, we should ever come boldly in prayer unto our Lord God's throne of grace, "that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:16) Yet we should also ever commit ourselves to respond unto our Lord's gracious and merciful help with a heart of diligent obedience to His Holy Word. We should fervently pray unto the Lord in our time of need. Then our Lord will graciously grant unto His help and deliverance. Then we should whole-heartedly respond with faithful obedience to His Word.

16. Keeping God's Word is the pathway to spiritual understanding.

In **Psalm 119:99-100** the psalmist revealed his spiritual understanding and the reason for it, saying, "I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts." Herein the psalmist indicated that he had acquired more spiritual understanding than those of this world who had been his teachers. Yea, he further indicated that he had acquired more spiritual understanding even than those who were considered the wisest of this world. Yet how did he acquire such great spiritual understanding? He did so by meditating daily upon the wisdom of God's Holy Word and by obeying faithfully the instruction of God's Holy Word. Indeed, this is the one and only genuine pathway to spiritual understanding – by learning from and living according to the truth and teaching of God's Word. Even so, in **Proverbs 2:6** the truth is given, "For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth [that is – from His Holy Word] cometh knowledge and understanding." So then, to whom does the Lord our God give this spiritual wisdom, knowledge, and understanding? In **verses 7-8** the answer is given, "He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly. He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints." The Lord our God gives sound spiritual wisdom and understanding out of His Holy Word unto those who will walk righteously and uprightly in obedience to His Holy Word.

Indeed, in **Deuteronomy 4:6** the instruction and the truth was delivered unto God's people Israel, "Keep therefore and do them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people." Yes, keeping God's Word is our spiritual wisdom and understanding. Again in **Psalm 19:7** the truth is given, "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple." Yet again in **Psalm 111:10** the truth is given, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever." And yet again in **Hebrews 5:14** the truth is given, "But strong meat [that is – the spiritual wisdom and understanding of God's Word] belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use [that is – by reason of obedience] have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." Thus in **Psalm 119:103-105** the psalmist exclaimed, "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! Yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."