

Psalm 119: For The Love Of Scripture!

Psalm 119:25-32

Psalms 119:25

(KJV) DALETH. My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word.

(NIV) I am laid low in the dust; preserve my life according to your word.

This next 8-verse stanza begins with the fourth letter of the Hebrew alphabet *dah-let*, which means literally *door*. The slightly bent structure of the letter itself resembles a lifted tent cover, and reminds us of our *lowliness*, our ultimate need for spiritual rescue. The lowly person is lost and without hope - they have come to the end of themselves - until they look up to see the dah-let, the *door*. The door represents the way to God, Jesus Christ:

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 10:9

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

Jesus is the door! Not a door, but *the* door to salvation. And if you have lost your way to your Heavenly Father, Jesus invites you home again - through the door, where you find a fully-stocked fridge filled with everything you need for life and godliness:

2Peter 1:3

According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

And, beloved, you will find Jesus seated at the table waiting to dine with you:

Revelation 3:20

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Hallelujah!

Psalm 51:17

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Don't despise your brokenness, dear Christian, nor your lowly seasons. You have never been closer to finding the door. And mark this, God always makes sure we see the door.

But He will not open the door for us.

And just to materialize the metaphor here - to the unbeliever, the Door is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, leading to Jesus Christ. The Gospel is a gift that must be received, that must be opened. *Open the door.* To the believer in the storm, or in the valley, the Door is a homecoming, and the Father has been waiting, arms wide open (Luke 15:11-32). Oh, and He will make every morning a fresh start with new mercies:

Lamentations 3:22-23

It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

Believer, *open the door...*

According to Scripture, the door is also a gate. The actual gate was the lone opening in the Outer Court. It was thirty feet wide and seven and a half feet high.

Matthew 7:13-14

Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Masses and masses of people enter through the broad way that leads to destruction. False doctrine, false gospels, and false teachers abound, headed for hell, with their deceived followers in tow.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

2Timothy 4:3-4

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Oh, but God's Word is a life-saving road block, should any choose to heed it.

ACKNOWLEDGE AND CONFESS THAT WE ARE SINNERS WHO HAVE COME SHORT OF GOD'S GLORY:

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

CONFESS OUR NEED FOR FORGIVENESS AND REDEMPTION, ACCEPTING GOD'S PROVISION FOR SALVATION IN HIS SON JESUS CHRIST:

Romans 3:24

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

OPEN THE DOOR AND RECEIVE JESUS TODAY:

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 10:9

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:13 *For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

AND THROUGH HIS WORD AND SPIRIT LET JESUS ASSURE YOU OF YOUR ETERNAL DESTINATION:

John 14:1-7

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

You have seen Him! You see the door. Do not pass it by. Do not go on with your life, trying to fill the God-shaped hole in your heart with substitutes. The Evil One, through the world system (1 John 2:15-17), holds out many attractive distractions to divert our attention away from the door, and away from Jesus. And Satan promises we can have all that the world and the flesh offers - if we worship *him!*

Matthew 4:8-9

Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and saith unto him, all these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

So, beloved, remember:

Matthew 7:14

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Few there be that find it. Many there be that pass it by. Multitudes stand at the edge of eternity. All must make a decision.

Joel 3:14

Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision.

We know the decision our psalmist has made by the fruit of his confession in the text. But every man, woman, and child on this earth must make their own decision to reach out for the door, unto Jesus, or pass it by to their own peril. But *now is the day of salvation!*

2Corinthians 6:2

For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you." I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

Here is our first verse again:

Psalms 119:25

(KJV) DALETH. My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word.

(NIV) I am laid low in the dust; preserve my life according to your word.

So our psalmist, along with every human who has ever drawn breath, is in the lowly place and knows it. And because he has made his decision to open the door and receive all that God has for him, he knows the quickening power of his Lord. Let's look at this word *quicken*:

QUICKEN, v.t. quik'n.

1. Primarily, to make alive; to vivify; to revive or resuscitate, as from death or an inanimate state. Rom 4. Hence flocks and herds, and men and beasts and fowls, with breath are quicken'd and attract their souls.
2. To make alive in a spiritual sense; to communicate a principle of grace to.
 1. You hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins. Eph 2.
 2. To hasten; to accelerate; as, to quicken motion, speed or flight.
3. To sharpen; to give keener perception to; to stimulate; to incite; as, to quicken the appetite or taste; to quicken desires.
4. To revive; to cheer; to reinvigorate; to refresh by new supplies of comfort or grace. Psa 119.

And how does God quicken His children who find themselves in lowly places and seasons?

QUICKEN BY WAY OF THE HOLY GHOST:

Romans 8:10-11

And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

QUICKEN BY WAY OF GOD'S WORD:

Psalms 119:25

(KJV) DALETH. My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word.

(NIV) I am laid low in the dust; preserve my life according to your word.

So we understand that Jesus is referred to as "the Word of life" and so it is the *Person* of Jesus we encounter in the *pages* of Scripture. The living Word testifies to and leads us to life in Jesus Christ:

1John 1:1-2

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

John 5:39-40

You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

The psalmist in Verse 25 is quickened, is revived by the Living Word, experiencing God's divine Presence therein, not by a cursory reading of some historical textbook.

Psalms 119:26

(KJV) I have declared my ways, and thou heardest me: teach me thy statutes.

(NIV) I gave an account of my ways and you answered me; teach me your decrees.

Knowing all of Who God is through His Word and the ministry of the Holy Ghost in our lives helps us to trust and obey God, and keep short accounts with Him:

Hebrews 4:12-13

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

The psalmist in Verse 26 is in the practice of confessing and repenting unto God, knowing from experience that God will respond to the psalmist's *godly sorrow* with His love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

I thought it would be good to ask: So what is godly sorrow, and what is its fruit?

2Corinthians 7:10-11

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.

Verse 26 doesn't end there, for the psalmist desires to grow in God's Word, knowing from his own sinful nature that He will need God's *continual* exhortation and discipline (let's properly call it *sanctification*) through the Word of God:

Philippians 1:6

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Psalms 119:27

*(KJV) Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.
(NIV) Cause me to understand the way of your precepts, that I may meditate on your wonderful deeds.*

“Presumption and understanding are irreconcilable enemies, especially within the heart of man.” I will explain this statement with a Scripture:

James 1:19-25

My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you. Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

There is no Scriptural revelation imparted to one given to presumption and presupposition - that is the person eager to interpret Scripture through the lens of pride, self, and hypocrisy, no matter how charismatic a communicator this person appears to be! As a strict warning, these types of deceitful teachers and their teachings should be avoided at all cost.

In sharp contrast, our psalmist humbly submits to the Word of God and what it clearly says.

He *looks* and he *listens*. (James 1:19-25)

The same will hold true as you and I approach Scripture with deep humility and hearts right with God.

Psalms 119:28

*(KJV) My soul melteth for heaviness: strengthen thou me according unto thy word.
(NIV) My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word.*

This verse is a parallel verse to Psalm 119:25. Running to God and His Word is not a one-time thing. The storms of life will come. The next valley is just ahead. God is always ready and His Word always available - on the page or in our hearts - to minister to His children, and to walk us through the storms and the valleys of life.

Psalms 119:29

*(KJV) Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously.
(NIV) Keep me from deceitful ways; be gracious to me and teach me your law.*

Falsehood is a natural trait of the fallen sinful nature of humankind. It is also hated and resisted by God:

Proverbs 6:16-19

These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

Therefore we need God's grace to stop lying and we need the provision of His Word via the Holy Spirit to learn His ways of truth. And, praise God - He more than willing and more than able.

Jude 1:24-25

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

Psalms 119:30

(KJV) I have chosen the way of truth: thy judgments have I laid before me.

(NIV) I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I have set my heart on your laws.

Here we have the heart of the matter, that is, the heart of the psalmist! This is why David was called "a man after God's own heart" and why this psalmist could expect to hear answers to prayer and have insight into Scripture. Faithfulness! He has set his heart on obeying God's Word.

In the Book of James, two reasons are given why believers do not receive answers to prayer, or even receive revelation from Scripture:

James 4:2-3

Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

1. You don't pray.
2. You pray selfishly.

If you find yourself in this dry desert of prayerlessness, or shallow selfish prayer - turn to God ask Him to investigate your heart. (Psalm 139:23-24)

He is faithful and He will change your heart. This is His commitment:

1Thessalonians 5:23-24

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

STUDY POINT: Read Proverbs 4:23. Write down all the ways the truth of this verse could impact your prayer life, both in a positive and negative way.

Psalms 119:31

(KJV) I have stuck unto thy testimonies: O LORD, put me not to shame.

(NIV) I hold fast to your statutes, LORD; do not let me be put to shame.

Our heart's desire as followers of Jesus is to walk as He walked (1 John 2:6) and to obey God the Father as He did (1 John 2:5). We want to be found faithful:

Matthew 25:21

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

Put me not to shame. The psalmist does not want to fall short of all that God has ordained for him. Like the psalmist, by holding fast to God's Word and obeying it, we can avoid the inevitable consequences of unfaithfulness at the end of our lives.

Proverbs 5:11-13

And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed, and say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof; and have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!

Psalms 119:32

(KJV) I will run the way of thy commandments, when thou shalt enlarge my heart.

(NIV) I run in the path of your commands, for you have broadened my understanding.

There are so many times in our lives before and after Christ, when we are painfully aware that the desires of our heart are harmful, that we are about to commit sinful acts that will be damaging to others, to ourselves, and to our relationship with God. God detects and hates even the conception of sin, because He knows as a Father that His child is about to be harmed.

James 1:13-16

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

These are called presumptuous sins, birthed from our fallen sin nature, and God hates even the conception of such sins:

Proverbs 6:18

An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

Though we may headed for the edge of the cliff, and right well know it, God's Word can instantly broaden our understanding and block our carnal plans. Of course, the ideal plan involves prayer and preparation *before* our hearts deceive us:

Jeremiah 17:9-10

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

But God is faithful. God is merciful:

1Corinthians 10:13

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: Have you reached out to God recently when you knew your heart was plotting a wicked act? Did you know that God was waiting to intervene, if only you would ask?

Beloved, I leave you with this Scriptural prayer today:

Psalm 19:12-14

Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.

- Reverend Darren McClelland