

Psalm 119: For The Love Of Scripture! Psalm 119:57-64

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Psalm 119:57

(KJV) CHETH. Thou art my portion, O LORD: I have said that I would keep thy words.

(NIV) You are my portion, LORD; I have promised to obey your words.

The eighth letter of the Hebrew alphabet *Cheth* is a fusion of the letters *Vau*, letter six, and *Zayin*, letter seven. These two letters are joined together at the top with a *chatoteres*, a vertical line, or bridge, that overextends above the *vau*. The meaning of *Cheth* is *life*, and can best be illustrated as the God-ordained institution of marriage:

Genesis 2:24

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

If the *vau* represents the husband, and the *zayin* represents the wife, then the *chatoteres* represents God, Who blesses, connects, and strengthens the marriage covenant:

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

True life has its foundation in Christ and the Word of God, and a true and living marriage will have at its centre the same:

John 10:10

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

So our psalmist prefaces this eight-verse stanza of Psalm 119 with *Cheth*, and the vibrant picture of life, abundant life in Jesus - who will be returning for *His* bride the Church:

1Thessalonians 4:16-17

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

So, when the psalmist here in Psalm 119:57 proclaims that God is his portion, we have context provided in just one Hebrew letter. God is our portion or allotment (Hebrew word *Cheleq*) of life, true life through Jesus Christ our Saviour!

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.

Collectively, all followers of Jesus, walking in daily, humble obedience to His Word represent the bride of Christ, whom He will return to seal the marriage and complete this picture of life, abundant life! Hallelujah!

I have promised to obey Your words.

Beloved, we can only make this promise along with the psalmist, if God is truly our life through Jesus His Son. He is the only way:

Acts 4:12

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Have you accepted Him today?

*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: If you have accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour of your life, what role do you think obedience plays in your relationship with God?

Psalm 119:58

*(KJV) I intreated thy favour with my whole heart: be merciful unto me according to thy word.
(NIV) I have sought your face with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise.*

With all my heart. The psalmist here knows nothing of half-hearted Christianity:

Revelations 3:14-22

And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

In our love relationship with God - as the psalmist himself experienced - we can expect to see more of His mercy and grace as we grow to love Him and His Word more and more:

Luke 10:27

And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

Psalm 119:59

(KJV) I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.

(NIV) I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes.

To think on one's ways is to understand that there are one of two ways we can be headed at any moment in time:

Romans 8:6 *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.*

There it is, dear Christian. The way of death. The way of life.

DEATH:

Proverbs 14:12

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

Proverbs 7:1-27

My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee. Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye. Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart. Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman: that they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words. For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, and beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding, passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house, in the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night: And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart. (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.) So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him, I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows. Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee. I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey: He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed. With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life. Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth. Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths. For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her. Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

LIFE:

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

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.

1John 5:11-12

And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

Without me having to say so, you, or rather the Holy Spirit within you, desire the way of life. Your flesh, however, is attuned to the world and carnal pleasure and may deceitfully lead you into the way of death:

James 1:13-15

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.

The battle, then, is between flesh and spirit:

Galatians 5:17

For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

If you already understand that this battle is waged inside your heart and mind, you are well on your way to victory! Though we sometimes find ourselves on the way to death, the psalmist here in Psalm 119:59 reminds us that the Word of God is ready to quickly redirect and restore us into the way of life again:

Proverbs 4:25-27

Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.

2Corinthians 10:3-6

For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.

Galatians 5:16 *So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.*

*QUESTION FOR MEDITATION: To prepare for the heat of the moment, when you are tempted to sin, what Scriptures might you hide in your heart to make your specific evil thoughts obedient to Christ?

*STUDY POINT: Find in the New Testament specific passages where Scripture was used to combat lies and presumption and stop up sin.

Psalm 119:60

(KJV) I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments.

(NIV) I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands.

In the Christian walk, *hesitation* and *procrastination* lead to *devastation*. Now, you may be thinking that I'm overstating the case, but to delay in obeying a clear directive from God is align yourself with doubt, the devil, and disobedience - none of which God wants for your life.

James 1:5-8

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Genesis 3:1-6

Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Familiarize yourself with the Father of Lies, and understand that his half-truths are lies and your delays in obedience open the door for his deception - and ever more chaos, confusion, doubt, and disobedience.

Matthew 5:33-37

"Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but fulfill to the Lord the vows you have made.' But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

Psalm 119:61

(KJV) The bands of the wicked have robbed me: but I have not forgotten thy law.

(NIV) Though the wicked bind me with ropes, I will not forget your law.

The psalmist's words here remind us of Paul's declaration in 2 Timothy:

2Timothy 2:8-9

Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel: Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

Beloved, this Word of God cannot be restrained by chains or ropes or steel bars! Nor can it be accessed and stolen from us when it is hidden in our minds and hearts:

Psalm 119:10-11

With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Psalm 119:62

(KJV) At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments.

(NIV) At midnight I rise to give you thanks for your righteous laws.

My most vulnerable spiritual moments of battle are often at night, in my thoughts and dreams. What better time then to heed the psalmist's advice and worship God than in the quiet of the night. Rise up believer, magnify Him, proclaim His Word in the night, and your sleep will be sweet!

Psalm 127:2

It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

Psalm 119:63

(KJV) I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.

(NIV) I am a friend to all who fear you, to all who follow your precepts.

What a great strategy here for spiritual victory! We need those around us who are like-minded and prayerful with a heart of humble obedience and love, who will sincerely care for our spiritual well-being.

King David had a similar strategy:

Psalm 101:1-8 A Psalm of David.

I will sing of mercy and judgment: unto thee, O LORD, will I sing. I will behave myself wisely in a perfect way. O when wilt thou come unto me? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me. A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person. Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer. Mine eyes shall be upon the faithful of the land, that they may

dwell with me: he that walketh in a perfect way, he shall serve me. He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight. I will early destroy all the wicked of the land; that I may cut off all wicked doers from the city of the LORD.

Paul exhorts the Corinthian believers similarly:

1Corinthians 15:33-34

Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God—I say this to your shame.

Psalm 119:64

(KJV) The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes.

(NIV) The earth is filled with your love, LORD; teach me your decrees.

We could not conclude this eight-verse stanza with a more worshipful verse! It is in the context of love that we grow to know God through His Word and the teaching by the Holy Spirit. Religion and rules breed fear, but relationship and revelation bear the fruit of love:

1John 4:17-19

Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us.

- Reverend Darren McClelland