

Psalm 119:25-32
When We Hurt Due to Our Disloyalty to God

Introduction: All of these verses begin with the letter D (daleth) in Hebrew. Several verses begin with the same word [*derek*]. We will find seven brief prayers in this section.

1) Life has been hard (part 1)—119:25-27

- Phrases in both verse 25 and 28 begin with the Hebrew word *naphshi* and end with *kidvarekha*.
- a) Life has been hard—119:25 (sometimes life seems **dry as dust**)
 - i) [*dabaq*] Humiliation and despair: *25 My soul clings/adheres to the dust*;
 - ii) **Prayer # 1**: the restorative power of God's Word: *revive me* (restore my life) *according to Your word*.
 - (1) Enable me to live a life that is worthy of God and His Word.
- b) And it has been my own fault (I acknowledge my general guilt)—119:26
 - i) [*derek*] The merciful response of God to our sin: *26 I spoke about my ways* (habits), *and You responded to me*;
 - (1) Some see this simply as praying to God about one's situation, but the prayer requests seem to indicate this is more likely confession of sin plus an explanation of one's situation.
 - ii) **Prayer # 2**: I need God's instruction: *teach me Your statutes/requirements*.
 - (1) I am now ready to submit and obey.
- c) And I don't want to go that way again—119:27
 - i) [*derek*] **Prayer # 3**: I need God's illumination of the Word: *27 Make me understand*/have ethical discernment *the way of Your precepts*,
 - (1) Remember the earlier references to these precepts in vv. 4, 15. Of the 24x this word is found in the Psalms, there are 21x in Ps. 119.
 - ii) I will deliberately focus on the right things this time: *and I will meditate* (cf. vv. 15, 23, 48, 78, 148) *on Your wondrous* (astonishing, clearly done by God) *works*.
 - (1) Note the importance of the mind in battling defeat, discouragement, and depression: teach, make me understand, meditate.

2) Life has been really hard (part 2)—119:28-30

- Phrases in both 25 and 28 begin with the Hebrew word *naphshi* and end with *kidvarekha*.
- a) Life has been really hard—119:28 (sometimes life seems **wet with tears**)
 - i) [*dalap*] I am really discouraged: *28 My soul weeps because of grief* (the mental sorrow from one's affliction);
 - (1) Someone has said, It is as though the soul were melting away which is evidenced through the trickling down of one's tears.
 - ii) **Prayer # 4**: Give me grace to stand up straight mentally: *strengthen me* *according to Your word*.

- (1) The Word of God is a means of grace. The Word of God penetrates our thinking. There is only one hope for a collapsing soul, and that is a supporting God.
- b) And it has been my fault (I acknowledge my guilt of disloyalty)—119:29
- i) [derek] Prayer # 5: You must change me: *29 Remove from me the way/habit of deception,*
- ii) Prayer # 6: Only God's Word of truth can make us truthers: *and give me Your instruction graciously.*
- (1) Grace is needed to understand and to obey God's Word. The LXX shows they understood this to be a plea for mercy.
- c) And I don't want to go that way again—119:30
- i) [derek] Obedience doesn't happen accidentally: *30 I have chosen the way of honesty/fidelity, integrity;*
- (1) This is a careful, well thought-out decision.
- ii) I will deliberately focus on the right things this time: *I have set Your judgments before me.*
- 3) The only way lasting change comes is from deliberately focusing on God and His Word—119:31-32**
- a) I am desperate to learn God's Word—119:31
- i) [dabaq] I will adhere to Your Word: *31 I cling (v. 25) to Your testimonies;*
- ii) Prayer # 7: I have nowhere else to turn: *O Yahweh do not let me be ashamed.*
- b) I am determined to obey God's Word—119:32
- i) [derek] I will be enthusiastic about my obedience to God's word: *32 I will run in the way of Your commands,*
- (1) It is one thing to merely avoid the wrong path; it is quite another to deliberately run on the path of obedience.
- ii) God impacts the core of our being: *because You will enlarge my heart.*
- (1) Holiness is more a matter of the affections, not the intellect. Only God and His Word can set us free the entanglement and darkness of discouragement and depression.
- (2) God is the One who gives us the desire and moral understanding that are foundational to willing obedience. (NET)
- 4) Things to remember (believe, feel, do):**
- a) No one drifts into holiness.
- b) We often become more teachable in times of adversity.
- c) Feet follow the heart.
- d) Remember the seven prayers:
- i) v. 25: *revive me* (restore my life)
- ii) v. 26: *teach me*
- iii) v. 27: *Make me understand*/have ethical discernment
- iv) v. 28: *strengthen me*

- v) v. 29: *Remove (sin) from me*
- vi) v. 29: *and give me Your instruction graciously.*
- vii)v. 31: *O Yahweh do not let me be ashamed.*