

Psalm 119:9-16
Introduction part 2
Absorbing God's Word into Your Entire Person

Introduction: This is the second sub-section of this psalm. These verses all begin with the letter B/V in Hebrew. This section focuses on whole person; note concentrated attention (v. 9), heart and feet (v. 10), values (v. 11, 14), mind (v. 12), thinking (v. 15), and emotions (v. 16).

1) The sanctifying power of God's Word—119:9-11

- a) A legitimate rhetorical question and answer—119:9
 - i) ⁹ *In what way* (by what means) *can a young man keep* [Piel impf.] *his way pure?*
 - ii) *By carefully keeping* [Qal inf.] *it according to* (the standard of) *Your word* [*dabar*].
 - (1) The rest of this section indicates that this involves the consistent exercise of the mind, consistent focus of one's values, and consistent Godward expression of one's emotions.
- b) A declaration of undivided loyalty to God and His word—119:10-11
 - i) Intense pursuit: ¹⁰ *With my whole heart I have sought* [Qal pf.] *You*;
 - (1) *do not allow me to stray* [Hiph. impf.] *from Your* (authoritative) *commandments* [*mitzvah*].
 - (a) Remember this concept as restated in Prov. 19:27.
 - (b) The psalmist is alert to the potential danger of straying.
 - ii) Holy commitment: ¹¹ *In my heart I have treasured* [Qal pf.] *Your word* [*imrah*]
 - (1) *so that I may not sin* [Qal impf.] *against You*.
 - (2) Everyone has **something** in their heart. We must make sure we have the right thing (God's Word) in our hearts.

2) The satisfying power of God's Word—119:12-16

- a) A doxology and dependence—119:12
 - i) The doxology: ¹² *Blessed are* [Qal act. ptc.] *You, O Yahweh*;
 - ii) The dependence: *teach* [Piel impv.] *me Your* (binding) *statutes* [*choq*].
 - (1) This is the first of 9x this prayer is found in this psalm: 119:12, 26, 33, 64, 66, 68, 108, 124, and 135.
- b) What I have done in the past up till now—119:13-14
 - i) Publicly: ¹³ *With my lips I have rehearsed* [Piel pf.] *all the judgments* [*mishpat*] *of Your mouth*.
 - (1) Talk to others about the work of God's Word in your life.
 - ii) Privately: ¹⁴ *In the way of Your testimonies* [*eduth*] *I have taken delight* [Qal pf.] *as much as in all wealth*.
- c) What my intentions are for the future—119:15-16
 - i) ¹⁵ *In Your* (authoritative) *precepts* [*piqqud*] *I will meditate* [Qal impf.]

- (1) *and I will focus* [Hiph. impf.] *on Your ways/behavior* [*orach*] .
ii) ¹⁶ *In Your* (binding) *statutes* [*chuqqah*] *I will delight myself* [Hith. impf.];
(1) *I will not ignore* [Qal impf.] *Your word* [*dabar*].

3) Things we need to remember:

- a) **Devotion:** Devotion to God's Word cleanses our life, prompts us to desire to learn even more from God and to determine to meditate with delight in His Word. (Ross)
- b) **Purity:** Because the word of God is the means by which the faithful maintain purity in life, they desire to learn more from God and enjoy meditating in his word. (Ross)
- c) **Wholeness:** God's Word must permeate the entirety of our being. As I said in the introduction, this section focuses on whole person; concentrated attention (v. 9), heart and feet (v. 10), values (v. 11, 14), mind (v. 12), thinking (v. 15), and emotions (v. 16).