

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT

The Illumination of the Word, Psalm 119:105-112

Thy Word...

Psalms 119:105 (KJV) ¹⁰⁵ "Thy word is..."

- The Bible is God's Word, it's *thy* Word, it came from and belongs to God
- Written more than 2,000 years ago, it still speaks to us today
- There is no other book that can address and speak to any and every one of today's issues as well as the issues, challenges and needs of tomorrow
- Where else can you go except the Bible and find everything you need
- God gave us a Word designed to withstand the test of time and designed to have a lasting impact on us as we live by it

God's Word Illuminates Our Steps and Our Path

Psalms 119:105 (KJV) ¹⁰⁵ Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

- The Word of God is *a light* or a *candle* for our feet
- The Word of God makes our steps *clear*
- Without God's Word, our steps are unsure, uncertain, and even perilous
- God's Word not only prevents spiritual stumbling, but it helps us walk the way God wants us to walk
- If we live by the Word of God we won't walk in spiritual darkness, we won't stumble over spiritual obstacles, we won't fall into traps set for us by the devil, and we will be able to recognize efforts by the world to pull us away from the biblical principles written in the Word of God
- As Christians, how are we to walk?
 1. **Worthy - Ephesians 4:1 (KJV) ¹ I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,**
 2. **Uprightly - Proverbs 11:3 (KJV) ³ "The integrity of the upright shall guide them: ..."**
 - Upright means straight, true, righteous **Psalm 92:12 (KJV) ¹² "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: ..."**
 - Being upright speaks of our conduct before God and others
 3. **In the Light - 1 John 1:7 (KJV) ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**

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- When we walk in the knowledge of Christ, we have fellowship with Christ and God and with other believers
- 4. Humbly - ***Micah 6:8 (KJV) ⁸ He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?***
 - We are to walk or live modestly before God and others
- If the Word of God is lighting our steps, we are not walking in darkness
 - Darkness suggests ignorance, blindness, being spiritually unprepared
- This is how we lived before the light of God's Word changed our lives ***John 11:10 (KJV) ¹⁰ But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.***
- The Word of God not only illuminates our every step, it also provides light for our pathway
- The Word of God provides light for the road ahead
- The Word of God will clearly show us *which path* to take
- We will see the path God wants our lives to travel and we'll also see and avoid the obstacles, ungodly detours, and those "slight angles" off the main path that over time lead us away from God
- When we make the Word of God our guide and follow its instructions, we will always be on the right road

Stay Committed to the Word

Psalm 119:106-107 ¹⁰⁶ I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous judgments. ¹⁰⁷ I am afflicted very much: quicken me, O LORD, according unto thy word.

- As the Word of God lights our path, we must commit to *stay on the path*
- The psalmist makes three statements of commitment:
 1. I have *sworn* - I promise
 2. I will *perform* - I will do
 3. I will *keep* - I will be consistent
- We have to make the same commitment, now that we have seen the light and are on the right path, we must never turn back, but keep living by the Word of God ***Psalms 119:9 (KJV) ⁹ Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.***
- Living by and being guided by the Word of God is fine when all is well; but what about the tough times?

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- There will be times when it seems like everything around you is falling apart, or there are people that are working against you, or the attacks or temptations by the enemy will not end
- The psalmist made it through difficult times because their *passion for and dependence on* the word of God
- The Word of God can:
 - Revive us when we are weak; ***quicken me, O LORD, according unto thy word***
 - Gives us instruction; ***teach me thy judgments***
 - It is often in the times of trouble; God gives us the strength and determination to stay committed to His Word
 - Keep us thankful; ¹⁰⁸ ***Accept, I beseech thee, the freewill offerings of my mouth***
 - Because God has preserved us during challenging times, we give to God a sacrifice, an offering of praise
 - We are to give God a *sacrifice of praise* for all He's done for us ***Hebrews 13:15 (KJV) 15 "... let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name."***
 - We also ask God to continue teaching us His judgments (God's Word)
 - Our desire is to continue learning the Word through biblical teaching, preaching, and discussions with fellow believers, and personal study, etc.

Trust the Word Even in Difficult Times

¹⁰⁹ ***My soul is continually in my hand: yet do I not forget thy law.*** ¹¹⁰ ***The wicked have laid a snare for me: yet I erred not from thy precepts.***

- In many parts of the world, Christians live under the constant threat of physical danger to themselves or their families because of their stand for God
- The psalmist says their life was in constant danger, but he did not forget thy law or the Word of God
- We may not live in an environment where our physical lives are in danger because of our Christianity, but we are often subject to ridicule, cruel treatment, verbal abuse, office politics, etc. because of our stand for God

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- We can't play the "go along to get along game" to avoid mistreatment and keep us in the good graces of people
- Keep your commitment to obeying God's Word regardless of the personal cost
- We are to trust the Word of God even when evil people have set traps for us
- The key to avoiding the traps of the wicked is *staying true* to the Word of God
- These traps are often more *spiritual* dangers than *physical* dangers
- God's Word and the help of the Holy Spirit will help you *identify and avoid* the traps of the enemy
- We can't stop what our enemies are doing, but we can overcome the physical and spiritual dangers of life by always *living by and obeying* God's Word

Joyfully Live by The Word of God

¹¹¹ Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart. ¹¹² I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes always, even unto the end.

- The Word of God is our *heritage* or inheritance
- The testimonies of God's Word are our inheritance; they belong to us
- We take the testimonies of the Word of God as an *heir* of God
 - We are in the family of God ***Romans 8:17 (NLT2) 17***
"And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. ..."
- God's Word was *left to us* to live by, obey, and enjoy
- We have inherited the Word of God in our lives and it's ours forever
- It is a source of joy in our heart
- And with joy we focus and concentrate on living by and being guided by the Word of God
- The psalmist inclined his heart to *perform thy statutes always*
- With a made-up mind, we promise to live by and obey the word of God
- We will live by and obey the Word of God until the end
- We will *spend our inheritance* by allowing the Word of God to guide our feet, light our path, keep us committed to God, to trust the Word in difficult times and to joyfully and faithfully live and obey it unto the end