



## LIFE IN YOUR WAYS.

“DEAL BOUNTIFULLY WITH YOUR SERVANT,  
THAT I MAY LIVE AND KEEP YOUR WORD.”

**PSALM 119:17**

### PSALM 119:

- Psalm 119 contains 176 verses and 315 lines.
- 173 of 176 of the verses refer to the Bible.
- It is the longest chapter in the Bible, and it is all about the Bible.
- Psalm 119 is an acrostic Psalm, meaning that each stanza represents a letter in the Hebrew alphabet. Each of the 8 verses in each stanza starts with the letter associated with the acrostic.
  - This shows that language could be exhausted for the sake of magnifying God and his Word.
  - It's also possible that “children, when they begin to learn their alphabet, should learn that Psalm.”<sup>1</sup>
- Its form is that of a prayer, and yet, it is a prayer of praise to God for the Bible.
  - Both prayer and Bible are necessary for a rich relationship with the Lord.
  - You cannot have one without the other.
- “This psalm praises God for his Word, the Bible, because God has given us the Bible and it is only through the Bible that we can come to know who God is and how to praise him.”<sup>2</sup> – **Jim Boice**

### BIG IDEA:

Delight yourself in the Bible while you're young,  
and you will experience an abundant life.

### LIFE IN YOUR WAYS:

**1.** Delighting yourself in the Bible is the surest way to happiness. (vv. 1-8)

- *Blessed* – happy, fulfilled, approved of
- Contented, eternally soul-satisfying happiness is experienced by those who “walk in his ways.” (v. 3)

**Psalm 1:1-2** - “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night.”

“This giant among the Psalms (Psalm 119) shows the full flowering of that ‘delight ... in the law of the Lord’ which is described in Psalm 1.”<sup>3</sup> – **Derek Kidner**

**Q:** What does it look like to delight yourself in the Word?

- **Walk** in the law of the LORD. (v. 1)
- **Keep** his testimonies (v. 2) and do so with **diligence** (v. 4)
- **Seek** him with your whole heart (v. 2) with **eyes fixed** on all his commands (v. 6)

Beware thieves who tell you that God, who has revealed himself and his ways through the Bible, is out to steal your happiness and that true happiness can be found outside of the will of God. That somehow God's creation has actually found the cheat code, something that the Creator was purposely concealing from you, when in reality...

<sup>1</sup> C. H. Spurgeon, *The Treasury of David: Psalms 111-119*, vol. 5 (London; Edinburgh; New York: Marshall Brothers, n.d.), 133.

<sup>2</sup> James Montgomery Boice, *Psalms 107-150: An Expository Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2005), 970.

<sup>3</sup> Derek Kidner, *Psalms 73-150: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 16, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1975), 452.

2. Pursuing the Lord through the Bible while you're young is the surest way to maximize your joy. (vv. 9-16)

- *How can a young man...* - the author of this Psalm is presumably a young man, possibly not much older than you.

The prevailing sentiment from a lot of people, especially in college, is, "I'll follow Jesus later on. Right now, I want to have fun." Perhaps you've said that. Maybe you've never said it, but your life functions as somebody who believes that. This Psalm teaches that you actually sell yourself short by pursuing joy in any other area apart from the praising God by obeying his Word. The way to maximize your joy in this life and the next is by seeking him with your whole heart TODAY.

Do you want to maximize the amount of joy you can experience in your life? Seek the Lord fully, today. Jennie and I went back and forth on whether or not to even keep the "young" language in the points tonight, and I landed decided on keeping it in for a few logical conclusions. I wrote to her: "I do think it's clear that if someone forgoes walking in the ways of the Lord today, but then comes to Christ later on, they have reduced the amount of joy they could have experienced. So to experience the most abundance, come to Christ when you're young."

**Psalm 16:11** - "You make known to me the path of life; **in your presence there is fullness of joy**; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore."

**Q:** How does following the Lord while you're young work to maximize your joy?

- Spend more time guarding your life with the Word of God, and you will enjoy more years of purity.
- Spend more time storing up God's Word in your heart, and you will sin less.
- Spend more time meditating on God's Word, and you will have more time to enjoy his riches.

Delight yourself in the Word of God, and this joy, marked by a contented, soul-satisfying happiness in God won't just be a momentary pleasure. This doesn't mean that your life will be a sappy Hollywood movie, where bad things rarely happen, and when they do, they're easily righted and the sun comes out again. This joy maximization that is felt when walking in God's ways means that in midst of difficulty, you can face it with confidence as one who is experiencing real, abundant life.

3. Feeding yourself on the Bible is the surest way to experience real life. (vv. 17-24)

**Matthew 4:1-4** - "Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

This desire to be fed by the Word of God is the young man's posture in verse 17 when he prays, "Deal bountifully with your servant, **that I may live** and keep your word." This term for living isn't just a plea for breath or survival; this man's earnest desire is that he will experience real life, a bountiful life, a type of spiritual fulfillment that comes only through relationship with God. And he knows this is nothing of his own doing, it is a gift. We know this because he appeals to God's gracious character by asking him to "**deal bountifully**." This life is something that he doesn't deserve and couldn't earn. His hope is God's grace alone.

**Q:** When can I experience this life?

- When you are lonely (v. 19)
- When people scorn you (v. 22)
- When princes plot against you (v. 23)