

And I Shall Keep It unto the End
Psalm 119:33-40

In **Psalm 119:33-40** the psalmist prayed, “Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way. Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear. Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy judgments are good. Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness.”

Throughout the eight verses of **Psalm 119:33-40**, the young man of God delivered a series of nine prayer requests unto the Lord. The first six of these requests concern the psalmist’s burden for direction in the way of righteousness, wherein the first three of these six concern his conduct along the pathway of righteousness and the second three concern his character of a priority for righteousness. Then the last three of the entire nine requests concern the psalmist’s burden for deliverance from the troubles of life. Yet throughout these verses the psalmist not only expressed his burden of prayer to the Lord, but also expressed his spirit of commitment to the Lord.

In general the psalmist revealed this spirit of commitment unto the Lord through his manner of praying. First, he revealed this spirit of commitment by praying for his walk in righteousness *before* he prayed for deliverance from trouble. Furthermore, he revealed this spirit of commitment by presenting *more* requests concerning his walk in righteousness than concerning deliverance from trouble. In fact, he prayed two times more for the one than for the other. Finally, he revealed this spirit of commitment by expressing a *spiritual motivation* even concerning his request for deliverance, in order that he might have greater freedom to grow in the Lord’s righteousness.

In addition, the psalmist also revealed his spirit of commitment unto the Lord through six specific statements of commitment. The first three of his commitment statements are found in **verses 33-35**, and the last three of his commitment statements are found in **verses 38-40**. As he voiced his requests unto the Lord, the young man of God also added his declaration of commitment. In like manner, we also need to maintain the same spirit of commitment unto the Lord our God.

1. A Spirit of Discipline

In **verse 33** the psalmist expressed his prayer and commitment unto the Lord, saying, “Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.” Herein the young man of God revealed his spirit of commitment unto the Lord through a spirit of discipline. After requesting for the Lord to teach him how to walk in the way of righteousness, he then committed himself unto the discipline of obedience. He declared that he would discipline himself to keep the way of the Lord’s Word with faithful obedience. Indeed, in this spirit of discipline, the young man of God not only committed himself to obey God’s Word for a few moments or upon occasion, but from that point in his life, continually throughout his life, unto the end of his life. He did not simply desire to begin his course aright. Rather, he desired to run the course aright continually, and thereby to finish his course aright. Even so,

in **verse 5** the psalmist exclaimed, “O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes;” and in **verse 44** the psalmist proclaimed, “So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever.” In like manner, we should also maintain such a spirit of discipline before the Lord – to keep His Word with faithful obedience unto the end.

2. A Spirit of Diligence

In **verse 34** the psalmist expressed his prayer and commitment unto the Lord, saying, “Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.” Herein the young man of God revealed his spirit of commitment unto the Lord through a spirit of diligence. Again he repeated his commitment to discipline himself unto faithful obedience. Yet then he added something more. The young man of God further declared that he would set his whole focus upon the pursuit of faithful obedience. He declared that he would observe God’s Word with the diligent focus of his whole heart. No part of his heart and life would be held back from the Lord. No part of his heart and life would be held back for his own will. Every part of his heart and life would be given and submitted unto the Lord. Every bit of his priority and motivation would be focused with all diligence upon obedience to the Lord and His Holy Word. In like manner, we should also maintain such a spirit of diligence before the Lord – to pursue faithful obedience with the focus of our whole heart.

3. A Spirit of Delight

In **verse 35** the psalmist expressed his prayer and commitment unto the Lord, saying, “Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.” Herein the young man of God revealed his spirit of commitment unto the Lord through a spirit of delight. Not only had he committed himself unto the discipline and diligence of faithful obedience, but also he had chosen to delight himself in the truth and way of God’s Holy Word. In **verse 14** he expressed his joy and delight in the truth and way of God’s Word, saying, “I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.” Then in **verse 16** he committed himself to continue delighting therein, saying, “I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.” Even so, in **verse 24** he declared, “Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors.” Again in **verses 47-48** the psalmist expressed his love for God’s Word and his commitment of delight, saying, “And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved. My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes.” Even so, in **verse 97** he exclaimed, “O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day;” and again in **verse 103** he exclaimed, “How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” Yet again in **verse 111** the psalmist expressed his joy and delight in God’s Word, saying, “Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart.” In **verse 140** he proclaimed, “Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.” In **verse 162** he declared, “I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil.” Finally, in **verse 167** he declared, “My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly.” In like manner, we should also maintain such a spirit of delight for God’s Word – to rejoice therein as the greatest and sweetest riches of life.

4. A Spirit of Devotion

In **verse 38** the psalmist expressed his prayer and commitment unto the Lord, saying, “Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.” Herein the young man of God revealed his spirit of commitment unto the Lord through a spirit of devotion. Herein the reference unto the Lord’s fear is not simply a reference unto God’s Holy Word, but is a reference unto the godly reverence for the Lord Himself that is generated by the work and wisdom of God’s Word. Therefore, the psalmist was not simply expressing his devotion to the Word of God, but was expressing his devotion to the Lord God Himself, the God of the Word. Even so, in **verses 10-11** the young man of God declared, “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.” Furthermore, in **verse 55** he declared, “I have remembered thy name, O LORD, in the night, and have kept thy law.” Finally, in **verse 57** he declared, “Thou art my portion, O LORD: I have said that I would keep thy words.” In like manner, we should also maintain such a spirit of devotion for the Lord our God Himself – to seek his fellowship with our whole heart and to firmly avoid sinning against Him.

5. A Spirit of Dependence

In **verse 39** the psalmist expressed his prayer and commitment unto the Lord, saying, “Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy judgments are good.” Herein the young man of God revealed his spirit of commitment unto the Lord through a spirit of dependence. Herein the young man of God revealed his conviction of heart that the judgments of God’s Word, the truth and teaching, the commands and counsels, the statutes and standards, the precepts and principles, the wisdom and warnings, the rebukes and reproofs of God’s Holy Word are good. Even so, with such a heart-conviction the young man of God intended to build and live his life upon the wonderful goodness of God’s Word. He intended to depend wholly upon the good foundation of God’s Word for his life. In **verse 105** he declared, “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” Then in **verses 129-130** he declared, “Thy testimonies are wonderful: therefore doth my soul keep them. The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.” Finally, in **verse 140** he declared, “Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.” In like manner, we should also maintain such a spirit of dependence upon the truth wisdom of God’s Word – building and living our lives thereon with unwavering assurance in its absolute goodness and wisdom.

6. A Spirit of Desire

In **verse 40** the psalmist expressed his commitment and prayer unto the Lord, saying, “Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness.” Herein the young man of God revealed his spirit of commitment unto the Lord through a spirit of desire. Indeed, he expressed a longing desire to learn, follow after, and be transformed by the truth and wisdom of God’s Word. In **verse 20** he proclaimed, “My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto thy judgments at all time;” and again in **verse 131** he proclaimed, “I opened my mouth, and panted: for I longed for thy commandments.” In like manner, we should also maintain such a spirit of desire for the truth and wisdom of God’s Word – that we may learn it, follow it, and grow thereby. Indeed, we are instructed in 1 Peter 2:2, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”