

Wil Owens

God's Word for You in 2022; Psalm 119:25-32

GPBC

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Introduction – Around the first of every year, I will encourage and challenge us to make God's Word a priority in our lives in the coming year. The New Year is always a time to re-evaluate, to plan, to make resolutions, to set goals. I strongly urge upon us today, that we not only strive to make changes and improvements in the physical, relational, or financial realms of our lives, but even more importantly, let's strive to reach new goals in our spiritual lives as well.

Paying off a debt or shedding 10 pounds are good and worthy goals, but treasuring Christ and walking with God and growing in holiness are far greater. And whatever our spiritual goals may be this year, pouring God's Word into our hearts will be fundamental and foundational for each one. 30 minutes with God each day will enrich our lives in a far greater measure than losing 30 pounds.

I made a commitment in my life when I became a believer at the age of 15 to read through the Bible every year. By God's grace alone, I've been able to keep that spiritual goal down through the years and in the blink of an eye I find myself 49 years old. I've read the Bible 33 times. I thought about that a few weeks ago when I completed my reading again. I began to think what difference has this practice made in my life? I certainly haven't become some sort of spiritual hero or giant. I'm still amazed after all these years how quickly and easily I get discouraged and distracted at times. One would imagine that reading the Bible so many times would surely cause one to grow by leaps and bounds, that one would then be able to face any challenge or hardship with tremendous, victorious faith, that one would just be oozing and dripping with fruit of the Spirit. But that hasn't been the case in my life. And then it dawned on me that maybe I was asking the wrong question. Maybe the question wasn't what difference has so much Bible exposure made in my life but rather where would I be today if I hadn't spent time in God's Word on a daily basis for these many years?

It was then that I learned a profoundly vital spiritual lesson in my life. And I believe it's precisely the lesson of our text today. Spending time with God in His Word didn't make me a giant, but it did keep me steady and keep me going and keep me pressing on and believing. It steadied me when I was shaken. It picked

me up when I stumbled. It shone light through dark and cloudy days. It softened me when my heart grew cold. God sustained me and carried me. Nothing have I faced in these 33 years that God didn't have a direct word for if I would just read it and then in prayer ask God to give me the faith to believe it and cling to it. It wasn't so much about rising above the storm; it was more about being able to weather it.

- I. God's Word for You (vv25-29) – 5 things
 - a. God's Word will Lift You When You are Low – v25
 - i. Hear the psalmist – my soul clings to the dust. Something has happened that has brought him very low. Life will do that from time to time. If your soul is clinging to the dust, you're about as low as you can get. The darkness of doubt or depression, the weariness of disappointments and failures, the hurts and heartaches of life can push you to the point of despair.
 - ii. But God has a word just for you in those dusty days. The psalmist cries – give me life – how? – according to your word. Now isn't that something? Isn't that amazing? Most of the time the promises and truths of God in His Word are not for the removing of the dust but for the faith to see through it! And all of a sudden when God's promises ring in your heart, you no longer cling to the dust, you find your self clinging to God!
 - iii. David knows what this means. Psalm 40:1-3 – I waited patiently for the Lord; he inclined to me and heard my cry. He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord.
 - iv. God's Word will lift you when you are low.
 - b. God's Word will Answer Your Deepest Questions – v26
 - i. You see, we have our ways and God has His ways and His ways are not our ways. We have our way of thinking, our way of viewing the world, our way of right and wrong, our way of living – and our ways are simply not sufficient.
 - ii. Not sufficient for life and certainly not sufficient for salvation, and never sufficient for our deepest questions. Questions like

why? Like what happens after this life? Like what is the meaning of this life? Like what am I to do with this life? Like am I a sinner ready to meet God?

iii. You see when we submit our lives to God's Word and expose our hearts to His statutes – He becomes our Teacher. He teaches us His ways, His plans, His purposes. And suddenly the world is not as we thought, for after all, it's His world.

iv. Psalm 119:24

c. God's Word will Fill Your Soul – v27

i. There are two things our souls will feast upon when we are in God's Word – His precepts and His works – His divine decrees and His divine interventions.

ii. You see God is the God who speaks. He is the ONLY God who speaks. He doesn't leave us in our slumbering darkness; He sheds the light of truth. He doesn't sit and watch us wander around in confusion; He speaks His will. We don't serve a silent deity; we serve the God who speaks. And when He speaks, He speaks ultimate, absolute truth. Truth we can live by and truth we can be saved by. And He has spoken on every page, on every line, and in every word of His Word.

iii. But He not only speaks; our God acts. He works, He moves, He answers, He provides, He protects, He sustains, He saves. He works!

iv. There are a lot of things in this old world that promise to fill your soul – possessions and pleasures, ideologies and relationships, fortune and fame and not a single one can deliver on their promise to fill your soul.

v. But when we begin to unlock the treasures of God's Word and we hear Him speak and we see Him work – He fills our souls, oh listen David said it in Psalm 23 – He overflows our cup!

vi. You see when life gets too big for me, I need to be reminded God is bigger than life. And when I get too big for life, I need to be reminded that God is greater than me. So when I read in the Word that Jesus simply speaks and calms the storm, God simply speaks and creates the heavens and the earth, so when He speaks to me in His Word and says Do not worry or be afraid – I have no need to worry and I don't have to be afraid!

- d. God's Word will Strengthen Your Heart – v28
 - i. Whatever was going on with the psalmist in v25 is going on with him in v28, the heaviness of life has caused great sorrow of life. But he has found God's Word to be sufficient for both the heaviness and the sorrow.
 - ii. God will strengthen him according to His Word.
 - iii. 2 Cor 1:8-10
- e. God's Word will Guide You in Truth – v29
 - i. False ways are put far from us as God graciously teaches us His law.
 - ii. Psalm 119:105 – Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.
 - iii. We are surrounded and bombarded by falsehood and deception at every turn. Our sinful flesh inclines toward the lies of the enemy. Our hearts often mislead us.
 - iv. God's Word never lies, never deceives, never misleads. It comes from God; it is only Truth.

II. You for God's Word (vv30-32)

- a. There must be a co-operation between us and the Word of God for the Word to work in our lives. God's Word in Us happens as we are in God's Word.
 - i. V30 – the psalmist chooses the way of faithfulness because he has set God's rules before him. How did he set God's rules before him? He read the Scripture. He prayed about the Scripture. He pondered on and memorized and meditated on Scripture.
 - ii. V31 – He clings to God's testimonies so that he won't be put to shame in sin and unbelief and wasting life on the vain and useless distractions of the world and self.
- b. How do we set God's rules before us and cling to His testimonies?
 - i. Pick a plan. Bible Reading. Devotion.
 - ii. Set a time. Morning – evening I'm too tired, too busy or too distracted.
 - iii. Stick to it. Don't allow anything short of sickness or emergency take you away from time with God.

- c. Rely on God's part for Your part – v32. Anything we do for God will not come easy. There will always be a fight of faith. We simply can't live for God without His grace.

Conclusion – that's the invitation today. Pray that God may enlarge our hearts to desire more than this world, to thirst for more than sin, to drink from the Fountain of Life. May God give us the grace to seek His grace every day.