

Evening Sermon Outline – July 16, 2017
“The Me, My Prayers” Psalm 119:33-40

I do not think it is any coincidence these “me, my” prayers follow immediately in the footsteps of the Psalmist’s previous promise – I will run the course of Your commandments, For You shall enlarge my heart. (Psalm 119:32 NKJ)

We hear Rocky music and we want to jump up and start exercising, we hear a good sermon, or read deeply in God’s Word and immediately we want to start RUNNING in the course of God’s commandments!

It is when we start those first few running steps, the “me, my” prayers begin: “Teach me” “Give me” “Make me” “Incline my” “Turn away my” “Revive me” ...

Perhaps the Psalmist read of Abraham’s great faith that took him One hundred years to build, and thought God’s enlarging of his heart and speeding of his spiritual feet might be instantaneous ...

However, starting on his way, he realized he needed to pray MORE, starting with –

I. Teach me –

HE. Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end. (Psalm 119:33 NKJ)

- 1. Note he seeks a teacher, a coach, but not just any teacher, he seeks the Lord himself, this is like what Jesus’ disciple did after he saw Jesus praying –*

Now it came to pass, as He was praying in a certain place, when He ceased, that one of His disciples said to Him, “Lord, teach us to pray ...” (Luke 11:1 NKJ)

- 2. Note what he desires to learn, the way of Your statutes ... He who is writing the longest Psalm of the Bible, all about God’s law and statutes, he knows he needs to LEARN MORE*

- 3. Note his confidence - and I shall keep it to the end. (Psalm 119:33 NKJ)*
 - A. Not self-confidence, or he would not be praying, but*
 - B. Confidence in God, if YOU, GREAT TEACHER, teach me ↵*

This is like what Paul writes to the Philippians –

being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; (Philippians 1:6 NKJ)

II. Give me –

Give me understanding, and I shall keep Your law; Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart. (Psalm 119:34 NKJ)

- 1. Here the Psalmist shows, he knows his Teacher is not an ordinary teacher! Every teacher teaches, every preacher preaches, but only God “Gives understanding” ---*

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Matthew 3:11 NKJ)

- 2. Only Jesus (God) baptizes with the Spirit and the Word of God is made known to us, only by the Spirit –*

But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”¹⁰ But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. (1 Corinthians 2:9-10 NKJ)

- 3. Understanding of the things of God, must be prayed for, must be “given” -*

... making mention of you in my prayers:¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom

and revelation in the knowledge of Him,¹⁸ the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; ... (Eph. 1:16-18 NKJ)

III. Make me –

Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it. (Psalm 119:35 NKJ)

1. Note what seems to be a humbler position, he promised to “run” verse :32, now he is asking God to “make” him walk
2. It is a giving up of control:
 - A. Like a child whose father helps him swing a baseball bat, “make me hit it daddy”
 - B. Or like a sheep, who needs the leading of a Shepherd –

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.²⁸ "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.²⁹ "My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.³⁰ "I and My Father are one." (John 10:27-30 NKJ)

IV. Incline my heart –

Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And not to covetousness. (Psalm 119:36 NKJ)

Take my will, and make it Thine; It shall be no longer mine:
Take my heart, it is Thine own; It shall be Thy royal throne,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

If our heart is God's royal throne, our prayers will be –
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as *it is* in heaven. (Matthew 6:10 NKJ)

And not to covetousness, was this David? Had he learned his lesson?
"... you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, ..." (Exodus 20:17 NKJ)

Covetousness is characterized by “my kingdom come, my will be done” prayers, which are selfish and sinful!

“The Bible will keep you from sin, sin will keep you from the Bible”
John Bunyan

V. Turn away my eyes –

Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, ... (Ps. 119:37A NKJ)

Worthless - שָׁוְיָ shav' {shawv} or שָׁוִי shav {shav}

Meaning: 1) emptiness, vanity, falsehood, nothingness, worthlessness
Worthless things are not always obviously wicked things!

VI. Revive me in Your Way / Righteousness –

... **And** revive me in Your way. (Psalm 119:37B NKJ)

Behold, I long for Your precepts; Revive me in Your righteousness. (Psalm 119:40 NKJ)

We tend to be sluggish, sleepy about the things of God, His Ways, His Righteousness, it is a high calling to pray and stay with Jesus -
Then He came to the disciples and found them asleep, and said to Peter, "What? Could you not watch with Me one hour? "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak." (Matthew 26:40-41 NKJ)

VII. Establish –

Establish Your word to Your servant, who *is* devoted to fearing You. (Psalm 119:38 NKJ)

Establish - קִוַּמ quwm {koom} to cause to stand, set, station, establish

Here the Psalmist is asking God to have His Word permanently before him, in front of him, in his spiritual line of sight and desire. Like in a dog race, the rabbit or mechanical hare is always in front of the dogs, motivating them to run, so the psalmist desires God' word to always to be before / established to, in front of him, not just now, but forever, so that he might never lose, but only increase, his current devotion!

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