

“Living *by* God’s Word”

“Blessed are the people whose God is the LORD!” (Ps. 144:15).

“God enjoyed is man’s happiness. When God is for us, with us, and in us, then our happiness is brought home to us” (Robert Harris).

(1) *The course of their life* (v. 1)

How they walk / Where they walk

(2) *The frame of their heart* (vv. 2–3)

What they keep / What they seek

The key to blessedness is a life conformed to God’s Word and a heart committed to God’s Word.

Kevin DeYoung, *Taking God At His Word* . . .

Psalm 119 shows us *what to think* about God’s Word:

1. God’s Word says what’s true.
2. God’s Word demands what’s right.
3. God’s Word provides what’s good.

Psalm 119 shows us *what to feel* about God’s Word:

1. He delights in it (vv. 14, 24, 47, 70, 77, 143, 174).
2. He desires it (vv. 5, 10, 17, 20, 40, 131).
3. He depends on it (vv. 50, 52).

Sound interpretation is necessary for *understanding accurately* and *walking faithfully*.

John Piper, *The Characteristics of a Good Teacher* . . .

- asks the hardest questions, works through them for answers, and then frames provocative questions for his learners to stimulate their thinking
- analyzes his subject matter into parts, sees relationships, and discovers the unity of the whole
- knows the problems learners will have with his subject matter, and encourages them through the humps of discouragement
- foresees objections and thinks them through, so that he can answer them intelligently
- puts himself in the place of a variety of learners and, therefore, explains hard things in terms that are clear from their standpoint
- seeks to be concrete, not abstract, specific, not general, precise, not vague, vulnerable, not evasive
- tries to see how discoveries shape our whole system of thought, and relate to life
- seeks the transformation of all of life and thought into a Christ-honoring unity

“Praying by God’s Word”

If we want to live like the psalmist, then we must pray like the psalmist.

(1) *The Opening of our Eyes* (v. 18)

(2) *The Quickening of our Life* (v. 25)

(3) *The Strengthening of our Resolve* (v. 28)

(4) *The Enlarging of our Heart* (v. 32)

(5) *The Inclining of our Will* (v. 33)

“Let your steadfast love come to me, O LORD, your salvation according to your promise” (v. 41).

(1) *The Subject: “your steadfast love”*

(2) *The Request: “come to me”*

“The psalmist is not content with a past demonstration of covenant love, but is asking for a further manifestation of it to him in his present need” (Hwyel Jones).

(3) *The Effect: “your salvation”*

“Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving” (Col. 4:2).

Carefulness

Watchfulness

Thankfulness

Corporate prayer works best when there is structure.

A prayer journal gives content and structure to our prayers, helps us develop a biblical vocabulary in prayer, and keeps track of items for thanksgiving.

Passages: adoration, confession, supplication, thanksgiving, etc.

Categories: missionaries, ministries, leaders, families, etc.

“Prayer is a sincere, sensible, affectionate pouring out of the soul to God, through Christ in the strength and assistance of the Spirit, for such things as God has promised” (John Bunyan).