

Committed to His World
-God's Word Gives Trustworthy Guidance for All of Life-
Psalm 119:1-11

Have you reached a point in life where people ask you “what’s your advice for living life well?” Or, “How do you keep it all together when the world seems to be falling apart around you. You’re still smiling. How do you do that all the time?”

Living life well comes from a firm commitment to God’s Word. Perhaps you’ve discovered that the older you get the more you trust His Word because you’ve seen His principles work in your life time and time again.

Our lesson today comes from Psalm 119. This psalm is often called a masterpiece in the Book of Psalms. The Holy Spirit worked through the writers of this psalm and brought honor to the Lord. It contains 176 verses and leads us to think it might cover a variety of topics. However, Psalm 119 focuses on one central topic — God’s Word. The writer of this Psalm exalted God’s Word as a foundation for life. God’s Word has the power to light our path (v. 105). It can help to keep us from sin (v.11). It strengthens us when we face difficult times (v. 28). It gives our lives a focus we would not otherwise have (v. 2-3).

God’s Word Guides Our Daily Walk (v. 1-4)

The psalmist used three words in v.1 that may cause us to linger and meditate over each word. The words are **happy**, **blameless**, and **walk**. **Happy** carries the idea of being fully satisfied. **Blameless** means to be unblemished, whole, and complete. It indicates a life totally committed to God. A totally committed **walk** is a constant journey to seek God’s instruction statutes, principles. In so doing, we are blameless and happy. We can only find the blameless way by following God’s Word, and when we do that, we are truly happy. Verse 2 tells us to live in daily obedience by keeping His decrees and by seeking the Lord. One of the benefits of keeping God’s decrees is that we won’t do anything wrong since our walk with Him becomes a lifestyle of seeking and honoring Him. Following in His ways means making choices and developing habits that reflect our wholehearted devotion to Him. In the New Testament, John tells us that our love for the Lord who saved us makes us reject a sinful lifestyle in order to avoid doing something He considers wrong

(1 John 3:9; 5:18). When we take into consideration the intimacy with Him that grows deeper as we obey Him, we can grasp the potential for happiness that results from honoring His precepts, decrees.

God's Word Leads Us To Be Unashamed (v. 58)

God's people in ancient Israel lived in a culture in which people lived with tremendous fear of being put to shame. They strived to live with honor, and they would do almost anything in order to "save face" if they found themselves in a potentially shameful situation. Not being able to keep God's commands would have brought shame to His people who were committed to Him. Failing to obey Him, therefore, would bring disgrace to them. Our commentary for this lesson emphasizes "a distinction between shame and conviction. Shame is something Satan throws at us to keep us down. Conviction comes from God's Holy Spirit with the purpose of leading us to repent and turn back to Him. The psalmist vows to **keep your statutes**. The psalmist pleads **never abandon me**. He knew he needed God's help to obey God's Word and experience His grace.

God's Word Keeps Us From Sin (v. 9-11)

Following God's Word is key to maintaining lives of purity. His Word keeps us from allowing sin to take control of our lives. We should seek the Lord with all your hearts. Filling our hearts with God's Word helps us resist sin. We should store God's Word in our hearts so that when we need it, it is readily available. Doing so will have a powerful effect on us. It has the potential to change us spiritually. The spiritual transformation leads to a change in our behavior because we do not want to sin against Him. The power of His Word at work within our hearts enables us to be delivered from sin's control over us.