

How Shall the Young Secure Their Hearts?

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Psalm 119:9-16 ... 9 How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. 10 With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. 11 Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You. 12 Blessed are You, O Lord; Teach me Your statutes. 13 With my lips I have told of All the ordinances of Your mouth. 14 I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches. 15 I will meditate on Your precepts And regard Your ways. 16 I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word. (NASB95)

9) How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Your word. The verb translated “pure” means “to be clear or clean.” While no one is without sin (Prov. 20:9), we must strive for moral purity (Isa. 1:16-17). The verb translated “keeping” means “to guard, protect, or preserve.” As Adam was to keep the garden (Gen. 2:15), so God’s people must carefully keep His commandments (Josh. 1:7-8). This is a reoccurring theme of Psalm 119 (cf. vs. 4, 5, 8, 9, 17, 34, 44, 55, 57, 60, 63, 67, 88, 101, 106, 134, 136, 146, 158, 167, 168).

10) With all my heart I have sought You; Do not let me wander from Your commandments. Moses repeatedly exhorted Israel to manifest heartfelt devotion (Deut. 6:4-9; 10:12-13; 26:16-19). In like manner, this is a reoccurring theme of Psalm 119 (cf. vs. 10, 34, 58, 69, 145). The verb translated “wander” means “to go astray, transgress, or be misled.” It results from a willingness to sin (Prov. 5:21-23), and a woeful lack of supervision (Ezek. 34:5-6).

11) Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You. The verb translated “treasured” means “to hide, or store up.” As Amram and Jochebed cherished their son Moses, hiding him as long as possible (Exod. 2:1-4), so we should store up God’s commandments in our hearts (Prov. 2:1-5; 7:1-5). While sin is often enticing, we must steadfastly resist temptation (Gen. 4:4-7; Rom. 6:12-14; James 4:7-10).

12) Blessed are You, O Lord; Teach me Your statutes. While the foolish die for lack of understanding (Prov. 10:21; Hos. 4:6), the faithful hear and heed God’s statutes (Deut. 4:1-2; 6:1-3). This also is a reoccurring theme of Psalm 119 (cf. vs. 12, 26, 64, 68, 124, 135, 171).

13) With my lips I have told of All the ordinances of Your mouth. Received truth must be related unto others (Ps. 40:9-10; 51:12-13; Matt. 10:26-28). Let us not be ashamed of the Lord or His revealed word (Ps. 119:46; Mark 8:38; Rom. 1:16-17).

14) I have rejoiced in the way of Your testimonies, As much as in all riches. The verb translated “rejoiced” means “to delight or exult.” The faithful derive great joy from God’s will and word (Ps. 19:9-10; 119:47; 72; 77; 111; 127; 162).

15) I will meditate on Your precepts And regard Your ways. The verb translated “meditate” means “to muse, consider, or poetically, to talk (of), or sing (of).” We should carefully reflect upon the word and works of God (Ps. 119:15, 23, 27, 48, 78; 148; 143:5; 145:5).

16) I shall delight in Your statutes; I shall not forget Your word. The verb translated “delight” means “to play, sport, or take delight in (something) or (someone). As a mother delights in her child (Isa. 66:10-13), so we should delight in God’s word (Ps. 94:19; 119:16, 47, 70). Let us remember God’s revelation and faithfully communicate it to others, not forgetting His wonders (Deut. 4:9-14), His covenant (Deut. 4:23-24), His provision (Deut. 6:10-15), His precepts (Deut. 8:11), or our own past and present failures (Deut. 9:7-8).