

Psalm 119: Nurturing Passion For God **How Do You View God's Commands?** **Psalm 119:1-8**

Introduction

How do you view God's commands? Too often we view them as burdensome, heavy, oppressive. But Psalm 119:1-8 gives us an entirely different picture.

Psalm 119 is divided into 22 sections of eight verses. Each set of eight verses, begins each line with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet — maybe to show that Psalm 119 covers the A to Z of having a heart for God.

What does it mean to be blessed? (v.1)

The word "blessed" means "happy, joyful."
So this psalm tells us how to seek the blessedness, happiness, and joy we all crave.

How can we be blessed? (v.1)

To be blessed, happy, joyful, our way needs to be blameless.
"Blameless" can't mean sinless, since the Bible is clear that no one this side of heaven is without sin (Ecclesiastes 7:20, for example).
The Hebrew word "blameless" doesn't mean sinlessness, but completeness. It means I am completely surrendered to the Lord.
It means no part of my heart is held back from God, and that when I sin, I repent and turn back to God through Jesus Christ.

What does it mean to walk in the law of the Lord? (v.2)

It means seeking the Lord with our whole heart.
We can take the whole law and boil it down to one thing — seeking the Lord.
That's the heart of every command.

How will we live if we seek God with our whole heart? (v.3)

We will do no wrong (because that would bring us less of God), and we will walk in his ways (because that will bring us more of God).

How will we respond to God's commands? (vv.4-8)

We will see that God wants them kept diligently, because this will bring us more joy in him (v.4).
We will pray and ask God to help us obey (v.5).
We will want to obey them, so we will be free from shame before God (v.6), and full of praise to God (v.7).
We will resolve to obey God, and pray for help from God (v.8).



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

Think of God's commands, like —

- Do not lie
- Forgive others
- Be devoted to prayer
- Meditate on God's Word
- Go and make disciples
- Care for the widow and orphan

How do you feel about commands such as these? Are you more on the "they are a burden" side? Or more on the "they will bring me even more joy in God" side?

Do you agree that God teaches us how to gain the greatest blessing, happiness, and joy — because he teaches us how to gain the greatest joy in Him? Why or why not?

Does it make sense that "blameless" means not "sinless" but "complete surrender"? Why or why not?

How often do you pray and ask God to help you obey? What holds you back from doing this? Or what motivates you to do this? What have you experienced as a result?

How often do you obey commands as a way of receiving more of God's presence? How often do you just obey because you're supposed to?

What difference would it make if you remembered that every command is an invitation from God for deeper fellowship with him?

What areas of your life are you struggling to surrender to the Lord? Share them with the home group and have them pray for you.

