

# Nurturing Passion to Obey God

## Psalm 119:57-64

### Introduction

How passionate are we about obeying God? We can feel the weightiness of this question, when we consider that there really is a God, who have revealed himself to us through Jesus Christ, and who has given us the Bible which contains his commands.

I am praying that God will use this passage from Psalm 119 to stir each of us with fresh passion about obeying God.

### Why is the author so passionate about obeying God? (v.57)

It's because God is his portion — which means in God he has everything he needs, that God is his prize, his treasure.

He is passionate about walking the path of obedience, because it's in that path that he will experience God as his portion.

But many of us can hear that — and feel hopeless because of our sinfulness.

But there's good news —

### Why isn't he hopeless about his sin? (v.58)

It's because he knows that if he asks, God will give him favor and grace.

V.59 shows why he asks for favor and grace — it's because he sees that his feet have turned from God's path.

So he asks for the grace of God's forgiveness, and God's enabling him to obey.

We all desperately need this, because none of us can obey God's commands.

God's command is that we love him with all our hearts, and let his love fill us with love for others.

But in our sin, we don't love God with all our hearts. We sin against God.

That's why we need God to forgive us for our sin, and to enable us to obey.

And God can do that because of what Jesus Christ did on the Cross.

So it's not hopeless —

***PORTION + FORGIVENESS + ENABLEMENT = PASSION***

### What results from believing this? (vv.59-64)

He looks honestly at his life, and turns his feet to obey (v.59)

He hurries to obey (v.60)

He obeys no matter the cost (v.61)

He praises God all the time (v.62)

He loves those who keep God's Word (v.63)

He looks to God's grace more than to his own obedience (v.64)



## 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.)*

On a scale of 1 (not very passionate) to 10 (really passionate) how passionate are you about obeying God? Why do you think that is?

Do you agree that taking v.58 with v.59 shows that he is entreating God for the grace of forgiveness of sin, and the grace of enablement of obedience? Why or why not?

Is there any area of your obedience about which you feel hopeless? What causes the feeling of hopelessness?

What would most help your hopelessness — more assurance that God will forgive your sin, or assurance that God will enable your obedience?

Do you agree that **PORTION + FORGIVENESS + ENABLEMENT = PASSION**? Why or why not?

What keeps you from seeing God as your portion?

What keeps you from trusting that God will forgive you through Christ?

What keeps you from believing that God will enable you to obey?

Take time to pray for each other. Share specific areas of obedience in which you need more passion. Pray for these areas.

