

OPEN THOU MINE EYES

PSALMS 119

Text: Psalms 119:18

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¹⁸ Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

Introduction:

There are three things that we learn from this verse.

- One is that there are wonderful things in the Word of God.

There are wonderful things in God's teaching to us. In fact, they are so wonderful that when you really see them, they change you profoundly and empower holiness and love.

This is why reading and knowing and meditating on and memorizing the Word of God is so crucial.

- The second thing we learn from this verse is that no one can see these wonderful things for what they really are without God's supernatural help.

If God does not open our eyes, we will not see the wonder of the Word. We are not naturally able to see spiritual beauty. When we read the Bible without the help of God, the glory of God in the teachings and events of the Bible is like the sun shining in the face of a blind man.

- The third thing we learn from this verse, namely, that we must pray to God for supernatural illumination when we read the Bible.

Since we are helpless in ourselves to see spiritual beauty and the wonder of God in the teachings and events of the Bible without God's gracious illumination, we should ask him for it. "Open thou mine eyes."

We need to continually remind ourselves to remember that the Bible's WORDS, THOUGHT and PRINCIPLES can be traced back to magnificent source...GOD!

Keeping that in mind it will affect our motivation to read and our desire to understand what we read.

Notice:

1. PRAY ABOUT UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

Notice what we are instructed to pray for so that we can better understand God's Word.

A. For God to Open Our Eyes (vs. 18)

Psalms 119:18

¹⁸ Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

It becomes clear from this Psalm and others that the writer truly had a desire to have a better understanding of God.

B. For God to Teach Us His Word (vs. 12b)

Psalms 119:12

¹² Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.

Psalms 119:33

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.

Psalms 119:64

⁶⁴ The earth, O LORD, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes.

Psalms 119:66

66 Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments.

Psalms 119:68

68 Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.

Psalms 119:135

135 Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes.

True learning of God's Word is only possible if God himself becomes the teacher in and through all other means of teaching.

C. For God Not to Hide His Word from Us (vs. 19)

Psalms 119:19

19 I am a stranger in the earth: hide not thy commandments from me.

The Bible warns of the dreadful chastisement or judgment of the Word of God being taken from us.

Amos 8:11

11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:

Psalms 119:43

⁴³ And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments.

D. For God to Make Us Understand His Word (vs. 27)

Psalms 119:27

²⁷ Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.

Psalms 119:34

³⁴ Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

Psalms 119:73

⁷³ Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.

Psalms 119:144

¹⁴⁴ The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live.

Psalms 119:169

¹⁶⁹ Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me understanding according to thy word.

Here we ask God to cause us to understand - to do whatever he needs to do to get us to understand his Word.

E. For God to incline Our Hearts to His Word (vs. 36)

Psalms 119:36

³⁶ Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.

Often there are times that when we read or hear the Word of God, because of our nature, and sometimes because of sin we are put off, that is why we should pray that God would incline our hearts unto His Word.

F. For God to Quicken or Revive Us so that We Will Keep His Word (vs. 88)

Psalms 119:88

⁸⁸ Quicken me after thy lovingkindness; so shall I keep the testimony of thy mouth.

He is aware that we need life and energy to give ourselves to the Word and its obedience. So he asks God for this basic need.

Psalms 119:154

¹⁵⁴ Plead my cause, and deliver me: quicken me according to thy word.

G. For God to Establish Our Steps in His Word
(vs. 133)

Psalms 119:133

¹³³ Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

We are dependent on the Lord not only for understanding and life, but to direct us in His Word.

H. For God to Seek Us When We Go Astray (vs. 176)

Psalms 119:176

¹⁷⁶ I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.

It is remarkable that this godly man ends his psalm with a confession of sin and the need for God to come after him and bring him back. This too we must pray again and again.

Close:

The Psalmist was earnest as he prayed and we too should be earnest as we pray. How earnest should we be?

Psalms 119:147

¹⁴⁷ I prevented the dawning of the morning, and cried: I hoped in thy word.

When he gets up his priority is the Word of God.

We too should make it that.