

Psalm 119 – Session 2

Week 12, v.26

Ps 119:26 I have told of my ways, and Thou hast answered me; teach me Thy statutes.

have told <capfar> to score with a mark as a tally or record, to inscribe and also to enumerate; intensively, to recount; reckon

my ways <derek> a road (as trodden); a course of life or mode of action; journey

What are David' s " ways" that he is speaking of? What does the previous verse say?

Psalm 119:25 My soul cleaves to the dust... He gives an honest account of his propensity to sin. He understands his weakness and the need for forgiveness. He is sincere about his failures. Do you recount your sins, your cares, your fears and your troubles to God Almighty?

Ps 51:2-4 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only, I have sinned, and done what is evil in Thy sight, So that Thou art justified when Thou dost speak, and blameless when Thou dost judge.

Most of us have least one relationship where we are truly transparent about our deepest, darkest struggles. We feel the freedom to put ourselves in a position of vulnerability in these relationships because we feel completely secure in them.

How secure is your relationship with God? Are you certain of your future? Is there reason to fear or doubt your future? Do you believe that God is all powerful and is able to combat your sin?

How sincere is your relationship with God? Do you desire God to reveal hidden sin in your life? Are you willing to address your weaknesses? Does God need us to confess our sin by name? Why is this essential for us?

Ver. 26. I have declared my ways. Open confession is good for the soul. Nothing brings more ease and more life to a man than a frank acknowledgment of the evil which has caused the sorrow and the lethargy. Such a declaration proves that the man knows his own condition, and is no longer blinded by pride. Our confessions are not meant to make God know our sins, but to make us know them.  
Treasury of David

Verse 26: ' We should freely and ingenuously declare to God in prayer, our sins, our temptations or sorrows, and our undertakings. It argues love, confidence,

and sincerity; it is a means of acquainting us with our own state, of which generally we are ignorant; and it will not fail to procure those aids from above of which we stand in need. God will hear us; he will pardon us our offences, strengthen us in our trials, dispel our grief, and " prosper the work of our hands upon us. " ' -Bp. Horne.

Look at the verse again. God will hear our sincere confession.

We can have confidence going to God with all our weaknesses and struggles, in fact, He wants us to confess our sin. In His forgiveness, His glory is displayed.

Jas 5:15-16 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

Joh 9:31 "We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing, and does His will, He hears him.

1Jo 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Ps 32:5 I acknowledged my sin to Thee, and my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; And Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin. Selah.

Ps 51:2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Pr 28:13 He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes [them] will find compassion.

Thou heardest me. Past answers to prayer should encourage us to come the more boldly to the throne of grace. William S. Plumer.

As you look back at the testimony of God' s grace and faithfulness in your life, your trust and dependence on Him should grow.

God does not reject us unless we reject Him.

1Sa 15:23 "For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also rejected you from [being] king." (towards Saul)

2Ki 17:19-20 Also Judah did not keep the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the customs which Israel had introduced. And the LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel and afflicted them and gave them into the hand of plunderers, until He had cast them out of His sight.

## Luke 13: 22-28

Why might it be important to consider the accounts of rejection above? What was David' s response in Psalm 119:26 to his struggle with sin? We are not rejected because of our sinfulness; we are rejected because we obstinately refuse His way.

Think of a time when you' ve really had to pray for patience towards someone. How gracious are we when someone continues to struggle with the same things over and over? How gracious is God towards us? The King of Kings is not only willing to hear us but desires to hear us and spend time with us. He wants us to bring Him our failures, our weakness, our requests and we have His promise that, if we are sincere, He will not take His love from us. How will this reminder affect your interaction with others?

I have declared my ways, and thou heardest me: these two go well together, Mercy and Truth: truth in the heart of man confessing; mercy in God, hearing and forgiving: happy is the soul wherein these two meet together. Many there are who are destitute of this comfort; they cannot say, God hath heard me, and all because they deal not plainly and truly with the Lord in declaring their ways unto him. William Cowper.

In the *Geneva Bible Notes*, Psalm 119:26 is re-worded to say: I have confessed my offences and now depend wholly on you.

*Hall' s Explication of Hard Texts* says it this way: I have laid open my whole estate before thee, and thou gavest a merciful respect to me.

"I have declared my ways, my wants, and burdens, and troubles, that I meet with in my way, or my sins, my by-ways (I have made an ingenuous confession of them), and thou heardest me, heardest patiently all I had to say, and tookedst cognizance of my case." Matthew Henry' s Commentary on the Whole Bible

There are three parts to David' s confession.

- 1- he recounts his sin
- 2- he acknowledges God' s attention
- 3- he requests instruction

According to this example, is it enough to just confess and receive forgiveness? Is there an additional step that needs to be taken?

Several times in this Psalm, David requests of God to teach him His statutes.

What does this say about David' s heart?

Do we understand our great need for God' s graciousness towards us?

1Jo 5:14-15 And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us [in] whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

1Jo 3:21-22 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight.

Ps 34:15 The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous, and His ears are [open] to their cry.

Ps 145:18-19 The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He will also hear their cry and will save them.

Jer 29:11-12 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.' Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

Mt 7:7-8 "Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you." For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened.

Let's pray that God will continue to work in us that we will grow in our recognition of our sinfulness; that we will sincerely seek him and that we desire to understand His ways in all things.

Ps 25:8 Good and upright is the LORD; Therefore He instructs sinners in the way.

Ps 143:8-10 Let me hear Thy lovingkindness in the morning; for I trust in Thee; Teach me the way in which I should walk; for to Thee I lift up my soul. Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies; I take refuge in Thee. Teach me to do Thy will, For Thou art my God; Let Thy good Spirit lead me on level ground.

Ps 86:11 Teach me Thy way, O LORD; I will walk in Thy truth; unite my heart to fear Thy name.

### Application Questions

What is the first thing the Psalmist does in 119:26?

Read Psalm 119:25. What troubles David?

What are your particular areas of weakness for sin?

Read 1 John 1:9 and Psalm 32:5. What do these verses say?

Is there sin in your life you need to confess?

Read 1 John 5:14-15 and Psalm 34:15. Will God hear your prayers of confession?  
Will He answer you?

How does the patience God shows towards you affect your graciousness towards others?

What direction do we take after confessing sin according to Psalm 119:26?

Read Psalm 143:8-10 and Psalm 86:11. What is your prayer?

What additional insight has God laid upon your heart of understanding through His word?  
Is there action you need to take in response to God's truth?