

Delighting in God's Path: From Collapsed to Conditioned Psalm 119:25-32

Mike Hogue
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25 דְּבַקָה לַעֲפָר נִפְשִׁי חֲיִי כְּדַבְרְךָ:

26 דְּרָכֵי סַפְרָתִי וְתַעֲנֵנִי לַמִּדְנִי חֲקִיד:

27 דָּרְךְ־פְּקוּדֶיךָ הִבִּינֵנִי וְאַשִׁיחָה בְּנִפְלְאוֹתֶיךָ:

28 דְּלִפָּה נִפְשִׁי מִתּוֹגָה קִיַּמְנִי כְּדַבְרְךָ:

29 דָּרְךְ־שֶׁקֶר הִסַּר מִמֶּנִּי וְתוֹרַתְךָ חֲנֵנִי:

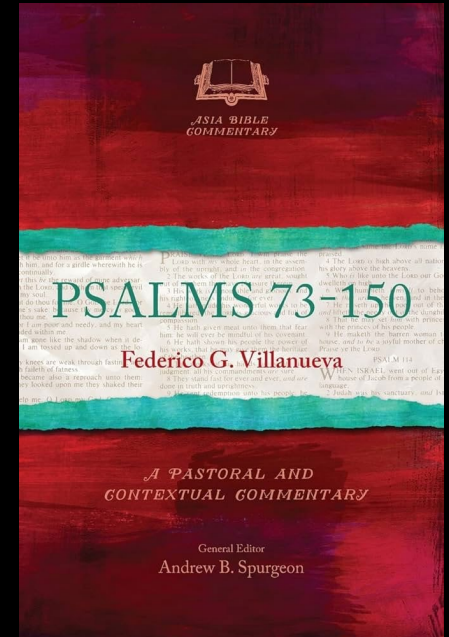
30 דָּרְךְ־אֱמוּנָה בַּחֲרָתִי מִשְׁפִּטֶיךָ שְׂוִיתִי:

31 דְּבַקְתִּי בְּעֵדוּתֶיךָ יְהוָה אֶל־תִּבְיַשְׁנִי:

32 דָּרְךְ־מִצּוֹתֶיךָ אֲרוּץ כִּי תִרְחִיב לִבִּי:

Psalms 119:25-32

Indeed, the whole Daleth strophe consists of elements that are typical of the lament: a complaint (vv. 25a, 28a), followed by a series of petitions (v. 25b, 26b, 28b, 29b, 31b), ending with an expression of certainty or assurance of trust (v. 32).



Psalm 119:25 ²⁵My soul clings to the dust;

Psalm 119:31 ³¹I cling to Your testimonies;

Psalm 119:25-32

²⁵My soul clings to the dust;
Revive me according to Your word.

²⁶I have told of my ways, and You
have answered me;
Teach me Your statutes.

²⁷Make me understand the way of
Your precepts,
And I will meditate on Your wonders.

²⁸My soul weeps because of grief;
Strengthen me according to Your
word.

²⁹Remove the false way from me,
And graciously grant me Your Law.

³⁰I have chosen the faithful way;
I have placed Your judgments *before*
me.

³¹I cling to Your testimonies;
Lord, do not put me to shame!

³²I shall run the way of Your
commandments,
For You will enlarge my heart.

Psalms 119:25–32 (NASB 2020)

From Collapse to Conditioned

1. _____ according to His Word (25-27)
2. _____ according to His Word (28-29)
3. _____ in His commandments (30-32)

From Collapse to Conditioned

1. Revived according to His Word (25-27)
2. _____ according to His Word (28-29)
3. _____ in His commandments (30-32)

1. Revived according to His Word (25-27)

A. The ____ (119:25)

B. The _____ (119:26)

C. The _____ (119:27)

1. Revived according to His Word (25-27)

A. The cry (119:25)

B. The _____ (119:26)

C. The _____ (119:27)

²⁵My soul **clings to the dust**; Revive
me according to Your word.

Psalms 119:25 (NASB 2020)

⁷Then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living person.

Genesis 2:7 (NASB 2020)

¹⁹By the sweat of your face You shall eat bread, Until you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; **For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.**”

Genesis 3:19 (NASB 2020)

¹⁵My strength is dried up like a piece of pottery, And my tongue clings to my jaws; And **You lay me in the dust of death.**

Psalm 22:15 (NASB 2020)

⁹“What gain is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your faithfulness?

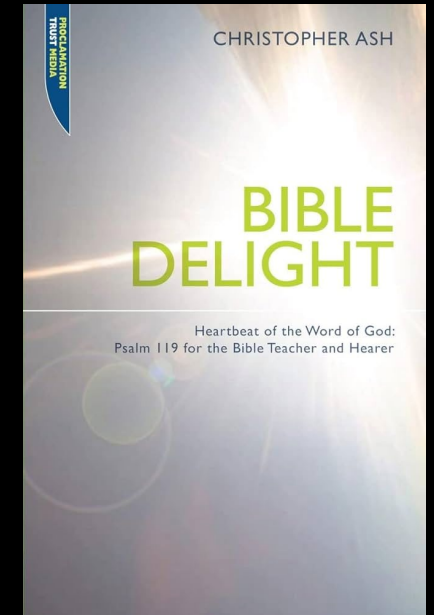
Psalms 30:9 (NASB 2020)

⁹May the nomads of the desert bow
before him, **And his enemies lick the
dust.**

Psalm 72:9 (NASB 2020)

Another one
gone. Another
one gone.
Another one
bites the
dust.

In the first half of this section we feel more passionately than ever the pain of the singer. His soul (i.e. he himself) clings to the dust. That is, the soul that came from the dust of the earth feels it is about to return to that dust according to the curse of Genesis 3:19. 'I am flat on my face in the dust, laid low, stuck in the mud, mired; I cannot break free from the dust of death except by the word.'





²⁵My soul clings to the dust; **Revive
me according to Your word.**

Psalm 119:25 (NASB 2020)

²LORD, I have heard the report about
You, *and* I was afraid. LORD, **revive**
Your work in the midst of the years,
In the midst of the years make *it*
known. In anger remember mercy.
Habakkuk 3:2 (NASB 2020)

⁴But God, being rich in mercy,
because of His great love with which
He loved us, ⁵even when we were
dead in our wrongdoings, **made us
alive together with Christ** (by grace
you have been saved),

Ephesians 2:4–5 (NASB 2020)

⁶Will You not revive us again, So that
Your people may rejoice in You?

⁷Show us Your mercy, LORD, And
grant us Your salvation.

Psalms 85:6–7 (NASB 2020)

1. Revived according to His Word (25-27)

A. The cry (119:25)

B. The _____ (119:26)

C. The _____ (119:27)

1. Revived according to His Word (25-27)

A. The cry (119:25)

B. The confidence (119:26)

C. The _____ (119:27)

²⁶I have told of my ways, **and You
have answered me**; Teach me Your
statutes.

Psalms 119:26 (NASB 2020)

²⁶I have told of my ways, and You
have answered me; Teach me Your
statutes.

Psalms 119:26 (NASB 2020)

⁷but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. ⁹**If we confess our sins,** He is faithful and righteous, so that He will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:7–9 (NASB 2020)

Luke 18:9-14

⁹Now He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt:

¹⁰“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.

¹¹The Pharisee stood and *began* praying this in regard to himself:
'God, I thank You that I am not like other people: swindlers, crooked, adulterers, or even like this tax collector.

¹²I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.'

¹³But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to raise his eyes toward heaven, but was beating his chest, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, the sinner!'

¹⁴I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other one; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Luke 18:9–14 (NASB 2020)

²⁶I have told of my ways, **and You
have answered me**; Teach me Your
statutes.

Psalms 119:26 (NASB 2020)

¹⁴This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, **He hears us.**

1 John 5:14 (NASB 2020)

¹⁷ *The righteous* cry out, and the LORD
hears And rescues them from all their
troubles.

Psalms 34:17 (NASB 2020)

¹⁶Therefore let's approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for help at the time of *our* need.

Hebrews 4:16 (NASB 2020)

1. Revived according to His Word (25-27)

A. The cry (119:25)

B. The confidence (119:26)

C. The _____ (119:27)

1. Revived according to His Word (25-27)

A. The cry (119:25)

B. The confidence (119:26)

C. The commitment (119:27)

²⁷Make me understand the way of
Your precepts, And I will meditate on
Your wonders.

Psalms 119:27 (NASB 2020)

Philippians 4:6-9

⁶Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything by prayer and
pleading with thanksgiving **let your
requests be made known to God.**

⁷And the peace of God, which
surpasses all comprehension, **will**
guard your hearts and minds in Christ
Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers *and sisters*,
whatever is true, whatever is
honorable, whatever is right,
whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,
whatever is commendable, if there is
any excellence and if anything worthy
of praise, **think about these things.**

⁹As for the things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, **practice these things**, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:6–9 (NASB 2020)

³³Teach me, the way of Your statutes, LORD, And I shall comply with it to the end. ³⁴Give me understanding, so that I may comply with Your Law And keep it with all *my* heart. ³⁵Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it. ³⁶Incline my heart to Your testimonies, And not to *dishonest* gain. ³⁷Turn my eyes away from looking at what is worthless, And revive me in Your ways. ³⁸Establish Your word to Your servant As that which produces reverence for You.

Psalms 119:33–38 (NASB 2020)

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Psalms 119:33–38 (NASB 2020)

¹²Sow for yourselves, *with a view* to righteousness; Harvest in accordance with kindness. Break up your uncultivated ground, For it is time to seek the LORD Until He comes and rains righteousness on you.

Hosea 10:12 (NASB 2020)

From Collapse to Conditioned

1. Revived according to His Word (25-27)
2. _____ according to His Word (28-29)
3. _____ in His commandments (30-32)

From Collapse to Conditioned

1. Revived according to His Word (25-27)
2. Reenforced according to His Word (28-29)
3. _____ in His commandments (30-32)

²⁸My soul weeps because of grief;
Strengthen me according to Your
word.

Psalms 119:28 (NASB 2020)

2. Reenforced according to His Word (28-29)

A. The ____ (119:29)

B. The _____ (119:28a)

C. The _____ (119:28b)

2. Reenforced according to His Word (28-29)

A. The sin (119:29)

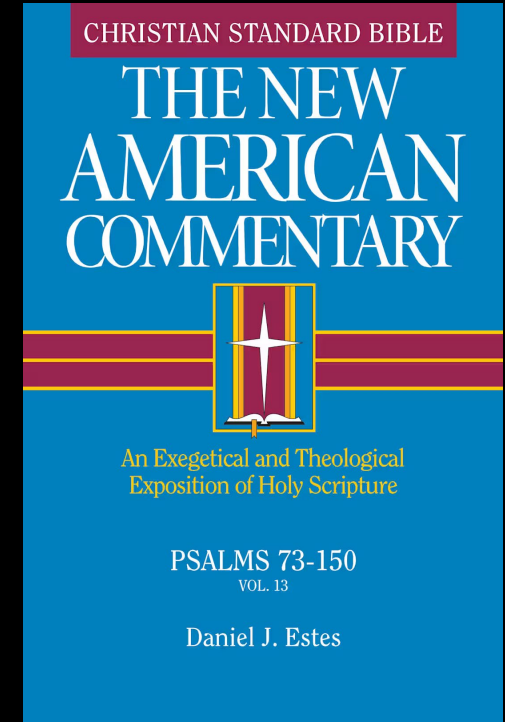
B. The _____ (119:28a)

C. The _____ (119:28b)

²⁹Remove **the false way** from me,
And graciously grant me Your Law.

Psalms 119:29 (NASB 2020)

119:29 Once again, as he calls on the Lord to keep him from the deceitful way, the psalmist implies that he is susceptible to wandering. Proverbs 14:12 states that “there is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way to death,” so as in Ps 139:24 the psalmist asks the Lord to remove the “offensive way” from him. Whatever deviates from the Lord’s way is deceitful and false, but the instruction of the Lord will keep him on the right path.



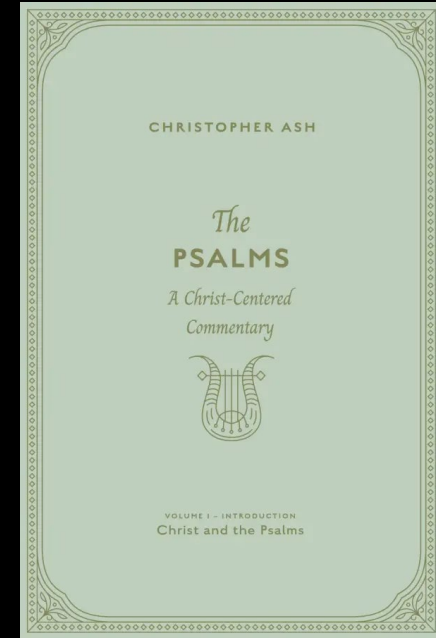
²³Even though rulers sit *and* speak
against me, Your servant meditates
on Your statutes.

Psalms 119:23 (NASB 2020)

²⁹Remove the false way **from me**,
And graciously grant me Your Law.

Psalms 119:29 (NASB 2020)

Just as the enemies came into clear focus in the second half of stanza 3, so the pressures on the servant's heart come to the fore in this stanza. The greatest danger is that the insolent mockers will lure the servant away from the way of faithfulness and into the way of falsehood (false ways).



¹²Therefore let the one who thinks he stands watch out that he does not fall. ¹³No temptation has overtaken you except *something* common to mankind; and God is faithful, so He will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

1 Corinthians 10:12–13 (NASB 2020)

2. Reenforced according to His Word (28-29)

A. The sin (119:29)

B. The _____ (119:28a)

C. The _____ (119:28b)

2. Reenforced according to His Word (28-29)

A. The sin (119:29)

B. The sorrow (119:28a)

C. The _____ (119:28b)

²⁸My soul weeps because of grief;
Strengthen me according to Your
word.

Psalms 119:28 (NASB 2020)

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

⁹I now rejoice, not that you were made sorrowful, but that you were made **sorrowful to *the point of repentance***; for you were made sorrowful according to *the will of God*, so that you might not suffer loss in anything through us.

¹⁰For the sorrow that is according to *the will of God* produces a repentance without regret, *leading* to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death.

2 Corinthians 7:9–10 (NASB 2020)

Worldly Sorrow vs. Godly Sorrow

Worldly Sorrow ❌



⚠️ Focused on Consequences

⚠️ Centered on Self

⚠️ Leads to **Shame**,
Despair, Paralysis

⚠️ Produces **Death**
(2 Cor. 7:10)

Godly Sorrow ✅



✚ Focused on God

✚ Rooted in Truth

✚ Leads to **Repentance**
& Restoration

✚ Produces **Life & Action**
(2 Cor. 7:10)

TRUE SORROW LEADS TO TRANSFORMATION.

2. Reenforced according to His Word (28-29)

A. The sin (119:29)

B. The sorrow (119:28a)

C. The _____ (119:28b)

2. Reenforced according to His Word (28-29)

A. The sin (119:29)

B. The sorrow (119:28a)

C. The strengthening (119:28b)

²⁸My soul weeps because of grief;
Strengthen me according to Your
word.

Psalms 119:28 (NASB 2020)

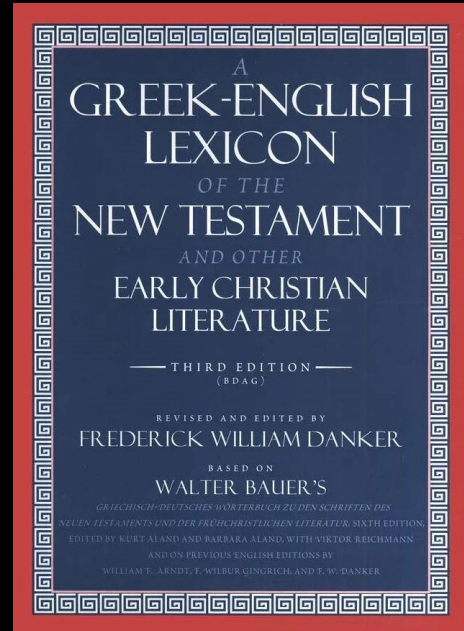
¹⁹Your dead will live; Their corpses
will **rise**. You who lie in the dust,
awake and shout for joy, For your
dew *is as* the dew of the dawn, And
the earth will give birth to the
departed spirits.

Isaiah 26:19 (NASB 2020)

βεβαιόω (*bebaioō*)

① to put someth. beyond doubt, *confirm*,
establish

② to make a pers. firm in commitment,
establish, strengthen



²¹Now He who **establishes** us with
you in Christ and anointed us is God,
2 Corinthians 1:21 (NASB 2020)

⁶Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, ⁷having been firmly rooted and *now* being built up in Him and **established** in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and* overflowing with gratitude.

Colossians 2:6–7 (NASB 2020)

From Collapse to Conditioned

1. Revived according to His Word (25-27)
2. Reenforced according to His Word (28-29)
3. _____ in His commandments (30-32)

From Collapse to Conditioned

1. Revived according to His Word (25-27)
2. Reenforced according to His Word (28-29)
3. Running in His commandments (30-32)

³²I shall run the way of Your
commandments, For You will enlarge
my heart.

Psalms 119:32 (NASB 2020)

3. Running in His commandments (30-32)

A. The _____ (119:30)

B. The _____ (119:31)

C. The _____ (119:32)

3. Running in His commandments (30-32)

A. The decision (119:30)

B. The _____ (119:31)

C. The _____ (119:32)

³⁰ **I have chosen** the faithful way; I
have placed Your judgments *before*
me.

Psalms 119:30 (NASB 2020)

¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have placed before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So **choose life in order that you may live**, you and your descendants,

Deuteronomy 30:19 (NASB 2020)

¹⁵But if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, **choose** for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served, which were beyond the *Euphrates* River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Joshua 24:15 (NASB 2020)

³⁰I have chosen the faithful way; I
have placed Your judgments *before*
me.

Psalms 119:30 (NASB 2020)

3. Running in His commandments (30-32)

A. The decision (119:30)

B. The _____ (119:31)

C. The _____ (119:32)

3. Running in His commandments (30-32)

A. The decision (119:30)

B. The determination (119:31)

C. The _____ (119:32)

³¹I **cling to** Your testimonies; Lord, do
not put me to shame!

Psalms 119:31 (NASB 2020)

²⁵My soul **clings to the dust**; Revive
me according to Your word.

Psalms 119:25 (NASB 2020)

¹⁰The voices of the prominent people
were hushed, And their tongues **stuck**
to their palates.

Job 29:10 (NASB 2020)

Downy



IT CONTROLS STATIC CLING

²⁴For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and **be joined** to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

Genesis 2:24 (NASB 2020)

²⁰You shall fear the Lord your God;
you shall serve Him, and **cling to**
Him, and you shall swear by His
name.

Deuteronomy 10:20 (NASB 2020)

⁸But you are to cling to the Lord your God, as you have done to this day.

Joshua 23:8 (NASB 2020)

³¹I **cling to** Your testimonies; Lord, do
not put me to shame!

Psalms 119:31 (NASB 2020)

3. Running in His commandments (30-32)

A. The decision (119:30)

B. The determination (119:31)

C. The _____ (119:32)

3. Running in His commandments (30-32)

A. The decision (119:30)

B. The determination (119:31)

C. The durability (119:32)

³²I shall run the way of Your
commandments, **For You will enlarge
my heart.**

Psalms 119:32 (NASB 2020)

For runners, VO2 max is a big indicator of your aerobic fitness, which plays a huge role in how fast, how long, and how hard you can run. “I like to think about it as the size of your aerobic engine,” says Jonah Rosner, a sports scientist focusing on runners. The more efficiently your body can deliver oxygen to your muscles so they can produce energy, the easier it will be to sustain a certain pace.



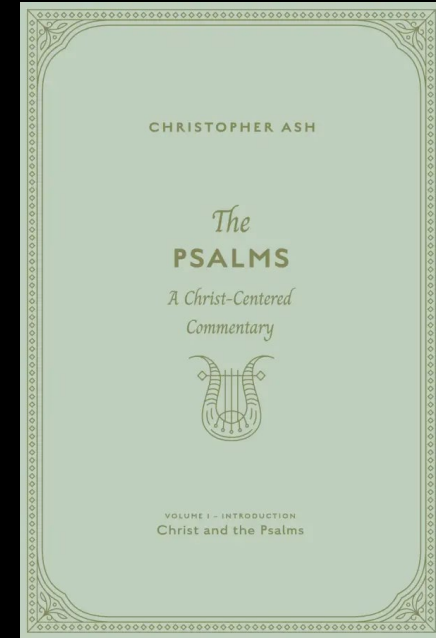
Instead of fixating on any one data point, focus on what matters most: consistent, smart training.



¹Therefore, since we also have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let's rid ourselves of every obstacle and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let's run **with endurance** the race that is set before us, ²looking only at Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1–2 (NASB 2020)

The idiom enlarge my heart may include the idea of enlarging the servant's understanding (e.g., CSB, NIV: "broaden[ed] my understanding") but also has connotations of freedom and gladness (cf. 119:45; cf. "Our heart is wide open," 2 Cor. 6:11) that can come only when freed from sin. Augustine helpfully explains, "Enlargement of heart means delight in righteousness. This is a gift of God. With it we are not cramped by fear in the observance of his commands but led into the broad freedom of love as we delight in justice.



Application

Application

As you walk through this week, bring your weakness to the Lord, rest in His Word, respond with obedience, and cling to His truth as He graciously enlarges your heart and helps you move onward with greater endurance.