

SENIOR BIBLE FELLOWSHIP ASSIGNMENT: NOVEMBER 25, 2025

Thank you for the great discussion at our last meeting. I learned from your insights and felt the Spirit's presence. I encourage everyone to share...even one thought. SBF is one way to grow in your relationship with God.

Here are some comments I remember from our November 11th meeting...

- both V2 and 10, talk about the heart.
- The first phrase of V10 is seek God with his whole heart. This is different than wanting to be perfect in following God's rules. He is seeking more than just God's rules, he is seeking God himself.
- you need to be humble to be directed by God like this person.
- In general the parallel verses seem to take on a question vs answer/response pair.
- the parallelism is meant to increase the richness/depth which each verse alone lacks.
- in V3, the blessed man does no wrong. In V11, the psalmist's stores up God's word in his heart, so that he might not sin.
- the psalmist sees sin as doing wrong against God himself.
- the ESV bible uses the word "store", whereas the NIV uses the word "hide". Both are similar, but hide seems to be more emotional. The psalmist sees God's word as a treasure which he keeps in a most precious place... his heart.
- the psalmist desires NOT to sin against God, but he isn't convinced he can do this on his own power.
- the psalmist is doing more than memorizing God's word (to his head). Instead he is placing them in his heart. How do you do that?
- V4 tells us that God commands us to keep his precepts diligently. In V12, the psalmist reveals that he cannot do this on his own. He is asking God to teach him his statutes.
- God's teachings come in various ways... from reading, studying, experiences, etc. etc. We need to be open to God's teachings, no matter how they come to us.
- I need to submit and surrender to God's will to learn God's lessons.

Optional Reading: Skip this (italicized) section if it doesn't make sense. It's for the benefit of those who initiated this discussion:

This discussion is based around the word "blessed"... knowing that it is translated from one of two different Hebrew words... Asre or Baruk. Since the psalm is an acrostic poem, the reader knows first letter of the Hebrew word in a particular stanza... so for V12, the Hebrew word is Baruk.

A comment was made that V12 is in response to V4's command to keep God's precepts diligently. The psalmist knows he is unable to keep God's precepts diligently, so he asks God to help him by teaching him. God's teachings go beyond facts/data, to involve your whole being. The first step usually requires us to surrender and submit our will to his. When we submit, God can change our hearts. This is why the Psalmist praises (Baruk) God... God has been changing his heart.

However, the psalmist knows he is not "there" yet, and wants to grow more and more. The psalmist has been "blessed" (Asre) by God in spiritual matters (V1, V2), so he

praises (Baruk) God. For the Christian, this cycle of Asre/Baruk blessings keeps us seeking God with all our heart.

As we ended our discussion, we agreed that we want to grow in our relationship with God. Therefore, like the psalmist, we prayed together for a moment. We prayed silently... time we each spent with our God... wonderful...

LESSON:

The lesson for November 25th will be on Psalm 119:13 – 16. Knowing how the psalmist uses parallelism, use the previous verses (Psalm 119:1 – 12) in your answers.

Psalm 119:13, 14, 15, 16

13 With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth.

14 In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches.

15 I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways.

16 I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.

QUESTIONS:

We will be looking at verses 13 – 16 in these questions. It seems like the Beth stanza is roughly divided into 2 sections. The psalmist uses verses 9 – 12, to examine the influence of God's word in leading a life of purity. In verses 13 – 16, the psalmist uses the first 4 verses as a foundation to declare a commitment... a commitment to lead a godly life.

Remember, Hebrew poetry revolves around thoughts and meanings rather than rhyme and meter. With Psalm 119, it's easy to see the main thread... God's word (Word, Law, Judgements, Testimonies, Commandments, Statues, Precepts, Rules)... it's used in every verse... all 176. This causes many to find Psalm 119 repetitive and boring... may it never be! I hope you will continue to maintain an attitude of discovery, knowing God is unfathomable. By walking alongside the psalmist, our delight in God's word and God will grow as the Holy Spirit opens our eyes and ears to see the treasures in his word.

1. The first 4 verses (V9 – V12) of Beth, uses words/phrases like "How", "let me not", "I might not", "teach me". In the last 4 verses (V13 – V16) of Beth, I see words/phrases like "I declare", "I delight", "I will", "I will".

- What do you make of these observations?

- Does it add any richness in your understanding of this stanza?

2. Compare V12 and V13. Just because verses are next to each other does not mean they are essentially happening at the same time.

- If you allow time to separate V12 and V13, does that change the way you see these verses?

- What's going on here?

Hint: In V12, the word "statutes" is similar to law, but with the idea that it is the "engraved" word of God (think 10 Commandments) and declares his authority and power in the written statute. In V13, the word "rule" is similar to words like judgement and discernment, and brings in the concept of knowing right and wrong.

3. In Verses 13 and 14, the psalmist uses perfect verbs (I declare, I delight) which indicate completed actions. In Verses 15 and 16, the psalmist uses imperfect verbs (I will), which indicate incomplete or ongoing actions.

- In your relationship with God, what does your life of faith have more of... a life of perfect verbs or a life of imperfect verbs?

- Share some of them.

4. Look at verse 15 and 16. Verse 15 uses the word "meditate" and verse 16 uses the word "delight". Examine them separately and then as a pair.

- Does thinking of the verses together add anything of significance which cannot be seen when read alone?

- Do you meditate on God's word? Why or why not?