

Psalm 119

week 7, v.45

What is the purpose of walking? What happens if we can't walk or won't walk?

Ps 119:45 And I will walk at liberty, for I seek Thy precepts.

The first word we see in this verse is 'and' so we can conclude it is connected to the previous thoughts. Verse 41 begins with David requesting the mercies of God; including the answers to reproach (42), the ability to continue speaking truth (43), and the desire for lasting holiness (44). In Psalm 119:45, we see the phrase, 'And I will walk...'.

What does it mean to walk at or towards something?

To walk is a verb, requiring movement and activity. What does this say about David's role in his faith? What does this concept mean for your faith?

WordWeb says "movement is a sign of life". The opposite of having life is death. Is your faith active or dead? What do we see in a faith that is active?

1Jo 3:23 And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us. (belief, love towards one another)

Ro 12:3 For through the grace given to me I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. (sound judgment, wisdom)

Php 1:29 For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, (willingness to suffer for truth)

1Th 1:3 constantly bearing in mind your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father, (fruit)

Mr 1:15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." (repentance)

Active faith produces peace and hope (Ro 5:1-2; Ro 15:13), joy (Acts 16:34; 1 Pet 1:8), confidence (Isa 28:16; 1 Pet 2:6), and boldness (2 Cor 4:13).

Let's look at the word 'liberty'. **What do you think of when you see this word?**

liberty <rachab> roomy, in any or every direction; broad, large, wide; at large

liberty: freedom of choice; immunity from the arbitrary exercise of authority.

WordWeb

Pr 4:12 When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; and if you run, you will not stumble.

Ps 119:133 Establish my footsteps in Thy word, and do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.

Isa 61:1 The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners;

John 8:31-36

Ps 119:32 I shall run the way of Thy commandments, for Thou wilt enlarge my heart.

'at liberty' or in the KJV, 'at large' – having escaped, especially from confinement

Keeping God's laws allows us to walk in freedom, we are not held back or confined to sin controlling us. Think about someone who has not dedicated their life to Christ, someone who has not been changed by His grace. When we are disappointed by their choices it is good to remember that they aren't able to choose righteousness. They are ruled by sin instead of grace.

The Geneva Bible Notes says, "They who simply walk after God's word have no nets to entangle them, while they who do contrary are ever in nets and snares".

We are in bondage to sin before we are saved through God's grace.

"I will walk free from all fears and distractive cares; for my heart tells me, that I do sincerely endeavor to keep thy law." Hall's Explication of Hard Texts

Psalms 119:45 says "I seek Thy precepts". Seeking means to tread or frequent, to inquire, to search. **Do you desire to know and do what God's word says? Do you**

desire to understand what God's will is? Are you constrained by sin in your life or free to follow what is good?

"The service of sin is perfect slavery; the service of God is perfect liberty". Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible

Spurgeon says, "Holiness is the truest liberty".

What is holiness?

It is commanded – Lev 11:45; Lev 20:7; Eph 5:8; Rom 12:1

Christ is our example of holiness – Heb 7:26; 1 Pet 2:21-22; 1 John 2:6

We are to serve God in holiness – Luke 1:74-75

We are to be holy in our conversation – 1Pet 1:15; 2 Pet 3:11

Behavior as older women should be holy – Titus 2:3

God uses His word to produce holiness – John 17:17; 2 Tim 3:16-17

Holiness is submitting to God – Rom 6:22

Holiness is God's work in us – John 17:15

Holiness comes from our union with Christ – John 15:4-5

Holiness is driven by our love for Christ – 2 Cor 5:14-15

Holiness comes from God's mercy – Rom 12:1-2

Holiness leads to separation from the wicked – Num 16:26; 2 Cor 6:17

Sin constrains us; holiness sets us free. Think of constraints vs walking at large.

freedom from reproach

freedom from distractions

freedom from sin, freedom to do good

If I'm not free, I'm a slave – slave to sin.

Are we truly seeking God's precepts, truly desiring to learn and grow, willing and wanting to be humbled and changed?

Ps 119:148 My eyes anticipate the night watches, that I may meditate on Thy word.

Ps 63:1 (A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.) O God, Thou art my God; I shall seek Thee earnestly; my soul thirsts for Thee, my flesh yearns for Thee, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

Ps 119:162 I rejoice at Thy word, as one who finds great spoil.

Pr 2:4-5 If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; 5 then you will discern the fear of the LORD, And discover the knowledge of God.

Application Questions

Psalm 119:45 requires action. What is this action? How active is your faith?

Do you love others? How do you show love towards others? (1 John 3:23)

Do you use sound judgment based on God's word or on your own thinking? How do you make decisions? (Romans 12:3)

Are you willing to suffer, be chastised or alienated, for your faith? In what situations might this occur? (Philippians 1:29)

Does your faith bear fruit in your life? What does it look like? (1 Thess 1:3)

Do you understand the need for repentance? Is repentance part of your offering to God? (Mark 1:15)

According to the following scriptures, what does an active faith produce? Do you see these things working in your life?

Romans 5:1-2; Ro 15:13

Acts 16:34; 1 Pet 1:8

Isa 28:16; 1 Pet 2:6

2 Cor 4:13

Are you controlled by the constraints of sin or the freedom of forgiveness? (Psalm 119:133)