

Ps 119:56 This has become mine, That I observe Thy precepts.

Ps 119:56 This I had, because I kept thy precepts. KJV

What is 'this'? All the benefits that come from keeping God's law.

v. 49 - hope

v. 50 - comfort in affliction

v. 51 - able to stand firm when scoffed at

v. 52 - comfort

v. 53 - 'a holy heart that is horrified at sin, at sinners, and at the sinner's doom' (SDC)

v. 54 - praise through my journey

v. 55 - remembrance of God in adversity

These benefits were ready at hand whenever they were needed because the Psalmist guarded God's commands; he knew the importance and value of God's words.

God *never* leaves us without the tools to accomplish His will through *all* circumstances.

Remember how this section starts out – David refers to himself as 'Thy servant'.

God's help is available to those who are obedient.

It is in vain to desire God to remember his promises made to us, if we make no conscience to perform our promises made to him. ... While I suffered for God, I was enabled to rejoice in God. As I made him my portion, so he has been my praise. Adam Clarke's Commentary

David says God's promises are 'mine'. This is possessive and personal. David knows God's promises and he knows they are his. God's promises are readily available to His children who follow His word. It's not a game of 'hide-n-seek' or an unorganized closet we have to fish around in to find God's blessings.

God wants to help us – the question is, do we reach out to what is available through Him? Are we in a habit of communing with Him at all times, in every situation, or do we stuff our thoughts of Him in a crowded corner only to be used when needed?

Do God's word and promises give you hope even in the most difficult circumstances? If not, why? How would you encourage someone who felt hopeless?

Ps 119:111 I have inherited Thy testimonies forever, For they are the joy of my heart.

Holy songs and devout memories are the fruits of obedience. Many other comforts come to us as rewards while we keep in the right road. Spurgeon Devotional Commentary

Ps 119:165 Those who love Thy law have great peace, And nothing causes them to stumble.

Ps 18:18-22 They confronted me in the day of my calamity, But the LORD was my stay. 19 He brought me forth also into a broad place; He rescued me, because He delighted in me. 20 The LORD has rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. 21 For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God. 22 For all His ordinances were before me, and I did not put away His statutes from me.

1Jo 3:19-24 We shall know by this that we are of the truth, and shall assure our heart before Him, 20 in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. 21 Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; 22 and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. 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. 24 And the one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And we know by this that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

He had this comfort, this remembrance of God, this power to sing, this courage to face the enemy, this hope in the promise, because he had earnestly observed the commands of God, and striven to walk in them. We are not rewarded for our works, but there is a reward in them. ... All our possessions are the gifts of grace, and yet some of them come in the shape of reward; yet even then the reward is not of debt, but of grace. God first works in us good works, and then rewards us for them. Treasury of David

Think of the words godliness and obedience. Obedience increases godliness. Disobedience or sin increases ungodliness. There are treasures to be had by following God's commands. These treasures of peace, joy, faithfulness, etc. are given by grace. The more we lean on God's grace and follow Him, the more grace He gives to continue even through difficulties.

When I hear the faithful people of God telling of his love, and saying -- "This I had," must I not, if unable to join their cheerful acknowledgment, trace it to my unfaithful walk, and say -- "This I had not" -- because I have failed in obedience to thy precepts; because I have been careless and self indulgent; because I have slighted thy love; because I have "grieved thy Holy Spirit," and forgotten to "ask for the old paths, that I might walk therein, and find rest to my soul" Jer 6:16. --Charles Bridges.

Jer 6:16 Thus says the LORD, "Stand by the ways and see and ask for the ancient paths, Where the good way is, and walk in it; and you shall find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk [in it].'

Bottom line –

A heart that is not yielded to God will not have: hope, comfort in affliction, strength to stand firm when ridiculed, a sensitivity to sin, sinners and judgement, praise through the journey, a constant reminder of God even in extreme difficulties.

God is always there ready with open arms to carry us through in a way that glorifies Him when we keep His commands.

Application Questions

Read through Psalms 119:49-56. When David says ' this has become mine' in verse 56, what is he referring to when he says ' this' ?

The benefits mentioned were ready at hand whenever they were needed but there was a condition to meet. What is this condition according to Psalm 119:56?

Are you able to claim God' s promises for your own? Why or why not?

Read Psalms 119:111; 119:165; 1 John 3:19-24. According to these scriptures, what does God' s testimonies provide for His children?

Is your inheritance in the things of this earth or in the promises of God? Where are the majority of your thoughts, time, energy and resources placed? What do you look forward to the most? Psalms 73:24-26; Luke 16:19-26.

There is a common theme in John 14:5, John 14:21; John 14:23 and John 15:10. What is it?

What additional thoughts has God given you through these verses? How would you apply Psalm 119:56-57 to your circumstances right now?

