

Psalm 119  
week 8, v. 59-60

Ps 119:59-60 I considered my ways, and turned my feet to Thy testimonies. 60  
I hastened and did not delay to keep Thy commandments.

We see action in these two scriptures.

I considered my ways

I turned my feet to Thy testimonies

I hastened and did not delay to keep Thy commandments

First thing I think of is how often and how easy it is to consider everyone else's actions and find fault with them rather than ourselves. Listen to your speech and those speaking around you!! Do you hear "she did this, she said that, they should have done this or that" ?

Back up to verses 57 and 58. If we are confident that everything we need is in Christ and available to us at all times, why do we so easily point to others or circumstances when things don't go well? A heart of humility thinks upon its own actions and responsibilities.

La 3:40 Let us examine and probe our ways, and let us return to the LORD.

Hag 1:5 Now therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts, "Consider your ways!

2Co 13:5 Test yourselves [to see] if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you-- unless indeed you fail the test?

1Co 9:27 but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

He shows that no one can embrace the word of God, unless he considers his own imperfections and ways. Geneva Bible Notes

I deeply pondered them; I turned them upside down; I viewed my conduct on all sides. The word, as used here, is a metaphor taken from embroidering, where the figure must appear the same on the one side as it does on the other; therefore, the cloth must be turned on each side every time the needle is set in, to see that the stitch be fairly set. Thus narrowly and scrupulously did the psalmist examine his conduct; and the result was, a deep conviction that he had departed from the way of God and truth. Adam Clarke's Commentary

When we examine our ways, we are to examine them in light of God's truths. Think! How often do people justify their actions by comparing them to others' actions? Is this what the Bible teaches us?

Remember in Psalm 119:57 David promises to keep God' s ways. You' ve probably heard the statement, ' think before you act' . This is biblical! Our example is to think about what God would have us do or say, then act accordingly.

Are there areas in your life you need to think back upon and ask forgiveness? Let' s pray that God builds a habit in us to always look to our own error and action before pointing out that of another. Let us have the humility to realize that we need the direction of God' s truth to lead us in the way that will bring honor to Him.

While studying the word he was led to study his own life, and this caused a mighty revolution. He came to the word, and then he came to himself, and this made him arise and go to his Father. Consideration is the commencement of conversion: first we think and then we turn. When the mind repents of ill ways the feet are soon led into good ways; but there will be no repenting until there is deep, earnest thought. Many men are averse to thought of any kind, and as to thought upon their ways, they cannot endure it, for their ways will not bear thinking of. David's ways had not been all that he could have wished them to be, and so his thoughts were sobered over with the pale cast of regret; but he did not end with idle lamentations, he set about a practical amendment; he turned and returned, he sought the testimonies of the Lord, and hastened to enjoy once more the conscious favour of his heavenly friend. Action without thought is folly, and thought without action is sloth: to think carefully and then to act promptly is a happy combination. He had entreated for renewed fellowship, and now he proved the genuineness of his desire by renewed obedience. If we are in the dark, and mourn an absent God, our wisest method will be not so much to think upon our sorrows as upon our ways: though we cannot turn the course of providence, we can turn the way of our walking, and this will soon mend matters. Treasury of David

If I need to turn my feet, it means I need to change my course. This is the idea of turning back, to recall or to recover from where I am to where I was. When we take the time to think about what we are doing and where we are headed and see that we have departed from God' s ways then we are to act by turning our direction back towards God. The story of the Prodigal Son in Luke Chapter 15 is a good example of applying this verse.

Psalm 119:59 answers the question how is David able to keep God' s word. He will examine that he is on the right path and if not, will change his course to follow God.

Pr 4:26-27 Watch the path of your feet, and all your ways will be established.  
27 Do not turn to the right nor to the left; Turn your foot from evil.

Heb 12:11-13 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. 12 Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and

the knees that are feeble, <sup>13</sup> and make straight paths for your feet, so that [the limb] which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

Do you walk by God' s rule? Or, do you have many paths you choose to fit your desires according to the circumstance? The first step in turning from sin is to examine ourselves then our heart change needs to be followed by action.

Ver. 59. I seriously considered both my former counsels and courses, that I might be humbled for my past errors, and might now amend them, and my duty in all my future actions. And finding that my feet had too often swerved from thy rule, I turned them to it. And although the ways of sinful pleasure and advantage were presented to my mind, yet I rejected them, and turned myself wholly to thy ways. Matthew Poole' s Commentary

If we can get our feet right as to holy walking, we shall soon get our hearts right as to happy living. God will turn to his saints when they turn to him; yea, he has already favoured them with the light of his face when they begin to think and turn. Treasury of David

We are to turn towards God immediately – not when it' s convenient or when we are ready but as soon as we recognize our folly.

Ps 119:60 I hastened and did not delay to keep Thy commandments.

haste <chuwsh> to hurry; to be eager with excitement or enjoyment

This is the opposite of delay <mahahh> which means to question or hesitate, to be reluctant.

When God is gracious to show us our error, do we understand the urgency in which we need to act? Is it exciting to you when God allows you to recognize sin in your life so that you are able to quickly turn from evil and towards Him? We are to be sorrowful for the sin but thankful for the opportunity to turn from it; lingering in our sorrow is not the example we are given.

I made haste, and delayed not] He did this with the utmost speed; and did not trifle with his convictions, nor seek to drown the voice of conscience. ... The original word, which we translate delayed not, is amazingly emphatical. ... I did not stand what-what-whating; or, as we used to express the same sentiment, shilly-shallying with myself: I was determined, and so set out. The Hebrew word, as well as the English, strongly marks indecision of mind, positive action being suspended, because the mind is so unfixed as not to be able to make a choice.

Adam Clarke' s Commentary

Typically we respond to those things that we love with great energy and excitement; we are slower to respond to the things that hold no affection in our lives. Responding to God' s correction quickly shows our genuine love and honor towards Him. When we delay, our own desires have taken precedence over God' s commands.

Being fully convinced of the necessity and excellency of obedience, I presently resolved upon it, and immediately put it in execution. Matthew Poole

Do we follow the example in Psalm 119:60? When sin is recognized do we turn away quickly and turn towards God? Or, do we linger in our sin until it is a more convenient time to change?

Oh Lord, help us to turn from sin rapidly and show speed in obeying your commands.

### Application Questions

Read the two verses. What are the three actions points to consider?

- 1
- 2
- 3

According to Lamentations 3:40, Haggai 1:5 and 2 Corinthians 13:5, what are we to do?

Look up the words 'examine', 'probe' and 'consider'. Develop your own explanation of what it means to look at your personal thoughts, actions and responsibilities. What are some key questions you could ask yourself to check your motivations?

Consider the quality of humility. Why is it more difficult to look to ourselves and our own conduct rather than others? What are we to compare our ways to?

What does it mean to turn your feet? Read the story of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15. Are there areas in your life where you need to admit you were wrong? Do you need to ask forgiveness and change your course?

When we take the time to consider our direction we are blessed. Read Proverbs 4: 26-27.

Look at Psalm 119: 60. How does David describe his response in turning towards God' s ways? How can you apply this example?