

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

What does it mean to establish something?

establish: set up, lay the groundwork, make clear by example or explanation, institute, bring about, place

establish (KJV - order) <kuwn> to be erect; hence to set up, establish, fix, prepare, apply. confirm, direct, order, be stable

order my steps (KJV)

direct my steps (NKJV)

keep steady my steps (RSV)

Ps 17:5 My steps have held fast to Thy paths. My feet have not slipped.

Consider. *Have you ever been on a hiking trip or taken a long hike in the mountains? How important is it that your steps are carefully placed? What happens if they are not?*

God governs our steps; God guides our steps; God keeps us from losing our step. In other words, we have a map, we have a guide and we have someone holding our hand helping us through the uncertain or difficult areas of our journey! *So why do we falter?* We let go, we move ahead without waiting because we're impatient, we choose not to look at the map and we get lost. Sometimes, we recognize the way to go but simply choose to ignore it. Maybe it doesn't look as much fun as our other choices or perhaps the road ahead has some uncertain turns and bumps and seems as if it may be painful. *What has happened to our trust in God's perfect plan?*

"Ver. 133. Order my steps in thy word. This is one of the Lord's customary mercies to his chosen, -- "He keepeth the feet of his saints." By his grace he enables us to put our feet step by step in the very place which his word ordains. This prayer seeks a very choice favour, namely, that every distinct act, every step, might be arranged and governed by the will of God. This does not stop short of perfect holiness, neither will the believer's desires be satisfied with anything beneath that blessed consummation." *Treasury of David*

Read what the next part of Psalm 119:133 says:

Establish my footsteps in Thy word

word <'imrah> commandment, speech, word

Pretty clear, right. God's Word. His truth. The Bible. *Think!* *What does it mean to be 'in something'?* We have common sayings such as, 'we are in love'. We can be in church, in the store, in the back yard, etc. We are physically there! We are part of whatever we are in. Being in something

speaks of our location, or our surroundings. I belong to a quilting group - I am in the quilting group. I am in a growth group. In the summer, we are in the water, meaning we are involved with it, surrounded by it, interacting with it, becoming familiar with it.

Ps 64:10 The righteous man will be glad in the LORD, and will take refuge in Him; and all the upright in heart will glory.

"Steps taken before, or in the presence of God. Steps butted and bounded by a divine rule. These are steps indeed." --John Bunyan, in "Solomon's Temple Spiritualized."

Now, let's go back and really think about what it means to be in the word, or to have our footsteps established by the word. You've heard of a litmus test. It's a test that clearly tells you whether something is acidic or alkaline. A litmus test relies on a single indicator. This thought is important because if we compare our thoughts and/or actions to anything other than God's truth, we will be able to justify sin in this world. We have a single indicator of right and wrong in our lives. It's called the Bible. God's word. *How much does God's Word factor in your life? Considering the above, how important is it to have God's Truths as our litmus test?*

Consider. There are few things we would be unable to justify if our litmus test is found in the world around us. Just consider our court system and the process of juries and trials for a moment. Even those who are obviously guilty can be acquitted if their lawyer is good enough to twist facts. Blazingly evident of the loss of a single guide for right and wrong is the rapid decline of moral behavior.

As we move through this verse, we get an answer to the previous question asked, *"How important is it to have God's Truths as our litmus test?"*

And do not let any iniquity have dominion over me. **Consider.** *What happens when sin is allowed to reign?*

iniquity <'aven> to exert oneself; trouble, wickedness; specifically an idol: affliction, evil, false, mischief, sorrow, unjust, unrighteous

dominion <shalat> to dominate, govern; by implication, to permit; rule, have dominion, give power

What happens when we take our eyes off God? What do you notice in your own life when you look away for even a moment?

Consider. You have a particularly busy day or week. It just doesn't seem possible to spend quality time in the word. Prayer and confessing sin and just being quiet before God are rushed through as you make the bed and throw laundry in the clothes washer. As you seemingly race from one event to the next, you look forward to slower days ahead when your routine can be reestablished, especially time with God. But for now, there

is so much to be done. You think you've got this! You can do it! Then, you begin to notice that your patience level is dwindling with those around you. Hmm, that's unusual. The words you begin using have a sharp edge to them. Wow where did that come from? The lines at Walmart were unbearably slow. Seriously, you can't get good help these days... People don't know how to drive anymore, they must be daydreaming at the wheel... And on and on it goes until somehow you're discouraged with the world and you have a 'bad day'. This is exactly why it's important to be established in truth. Listen to the way sin enters our life without our realization. "I know I'm impatient right now, but I'm really tired and still have a million things to do." "Yes, I have an attitude but you should have seen the incompetence of the people around me!" "Oh my goodness, can you believe how people drive these days!" **Look inside. What really happened, what is the true problem?**

Ro 7:23-24 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

Ps 19:13 Also keep back Thy servant from presumptuous [sins]; Let them not rule over me; Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be acquitted of great transgression.

Ro 6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts,

Truth. We are weak. There is someone who would love to see us falter and it's not God.

1Pe 5:8 Be of sober [spirit,] be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

1Th 5:4-6 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief ⁵ for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; ⁶ so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.

Ps 119:33-34 Teach me, O LORD, the way of Thy statutes, and I shall observe it to the end. ³⁴ Give me understanding, that I may observe Thy law, and keep it with all my heart.

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Ps 40:2 He brought me up out of the pit of destruction, out of the miry clay; And He set my feet upon a rock making my footsteps firm.

God has shown mercy towards us in forgiving our sin; He offers grace to us in keeping us from the power of sin.

Ps 121:3 He will not allow your foot to slip; He who keeps you will not slumber.

Ps 17:5 My steps have held fast to Thy paths. My feet have not slipped.

Ps 32:8 I will instruct you and teach you in the way which you should go; I will counsel you with My eye upon you.

Ver. 133. -- Order my steps in thy word. It is written of Boleslaus, one of the kings of Poland, that he still carries about him the picture of his father, and when he was to do any great work or set upon any design extraordinary, he would look on the picture and pray that he might do nothing unworthy of such a father's name. Thus it is that the Scriptures are the picture of God's will, therein drawn out to the very life. Before a man enter upon or engage himself in any business whatsoever, let him look there, and read there what is to be done; what to be undone; and what God commands, let that be done; what he forbids, let that be undone; let the balance of the sanctuary weigh all, the oracles of God decide all, the rule of God's word be the square of all, and his glory the ultimate of all intendments whatsoever. --From Spencer's "Things New and Old."

God gives us a firm, steady direction in His word. There's an illustration I learned in Evangelism Explosion. It's an outline of your heart with a throne in the center, permeating everything. **Who's on the throne in your heart? Do you push God off the throne or scoot it to the side or have you piled up additional items to share God's rightful place in your heart?** Before you answer this too quickly, we can easily place "good" things before God. Think children, husband, family, friends, responsibilities, even ministries. You can probably think of a few more...

David prays that God gives him direction and that God protects him from sin - it is deceptively dangerous. **God is the sole (soul) power in David's life!** Our Psalmist desires God to have exclusive control, knowing without God's direction of his steps, he will most absolutely fail.

"Verse 133: The frequent ejaculatory prayers for divine teaching and upholding, and that God would not permit any sin to acquire dominion over him, show how much the Psalmist understood and felt his entire dependence on God; not only for providential protection and the forgiveness of his sins, but also as to those things in which men in general depend on themselves, and assume the credit of any real or supposed difference subsisting between them and others; namely, The due exercise of their rational powers, and the right state of their hearts.—'O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, do proceed,' &c.—Liturgy.—It is evident that David deeply felt that iniquity, in one form or other, would enslave him, unless God himself ordered and upheld his goings according to the sacred word." *Thomas Scott*

What path do you frequently walk upon? I pray your desire is to walk the path of Truth with God as your guide.