

In light of the blessings of God's favor and His instruction in our own lives, how are we affected when we see others turning from God?

Weirsbe, in his book, "Be Exultant", says "As we walk with the Lord in freedom, we walk in the light and have nothing to hide. But enjoying His freedom and blessing does not eliminate the burden we carry because of the wickedness in the world (v. 136). A broken heart and a blessed heart can exist in the same person at the same time."

Ps 119:136 My eyes shed streams of water, because they do not keep Thy law.

Crying is something we are all familiar with. Sometimes we cry tears of joy. Most often, we cry when we are hurt. We cry when we are sad. We cry when something seems difficult or overwhelming or unfair. We cry when our hearts experience loss. We can cry for ourselves and we cry for others.

If you have the joy of salvation in your heart, knowing with certainty that God is your source of all that is needed and He has a perfect plan for your life, you experience a sense of peace through all circumstances that often seems not 'normal'. That's because it's not! It's God-given. Because we care about the people God has placed in our lives, we desire this same sense of joy for them that comes from His grace and mercy.

Watching someone step out into a busy, car-filled intersection with a blindfold on is scary and heart breaking because the end result is most certainly not good. They seem oblivious to the dangers around them, but you can imagine suffering ahead - pain and sadness. Probably, many of you right now feel like you're watching a scenario similar to this idea in your own life, with people you know. *What is your reaction? Can you relate to the tears David sheds for those who do not follow Christ?*

Psalm 119:136 uses the words '*because they do not keep Thy law*'.

This is more than someone not adhering to a standard because they don't know. In order to keep something you must have it in the first place. So this is a situation where the Truth is known yet rejected. It's not considered valuable enough to follow.

Think of the word contemn. It means to look down on with disdain, to despise, to scorn. When God's truth is reacted to in this way, it should cause His children to sorrow. *Do we shed tears for the wickedness of others? Do we sorrow when God's name is dishonored?*

Jesus wept when His beloved Jerusalem rejected Him.

Lu 19:41 And when He approached, He saw the city and wept over it,

Joy is a product of salvation; misery is produced from sin. There is a difference between crying for oneself and crying for the loss of others. The

tears that flow from our Psalmist's eyes were not born from self-pity or his own troubles, but were shed for the miseries brought upon others as a result of sin. Read how Jeremiah wept for Jerusalem as they continued to treat God's word with disdain.

Jer 9:1 Oh, that my head were waters, and my eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

Jer 13:15-17 Listen and give heed, do not be haughty, for the LORD has spoken. ¹⁶ Give glory to the LORD your God, before He brings darkness and before your feet stumble on the dusky mountains, and while you are hoping for light He makes it into deep darkness, and turns it into gloom. ¹⁷ But if you will not listen to it, my soul will sob in secret for such pride; and my eyes will bitterly weep and flow down with tears, because the flock of the LORD has been taken captive.

In Romans, we read of Paul's sorrow for the unbelieving Jews. And then in the book of Philippians, Paul wrote how he shed tears for those who professed to know Christ but were continuing to live according to the world and its pleasures.

Ro 9:2-3 that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed, [separated] from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh,

Php 3:18-19 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, [that they are] enemies of the cross of Christ, ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is [their] appetite, and [whose] glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

In only eight verses, *Ps 119:129-136*, we are presented an inspirational prayer from the heart of a man who truly loves God.

The Psalmist praises God for His word.

He recognizes the power of God's word to the ordinary.

He realizes his need for God's word.

He requests God's favor.

He requests direction and protection from God.

He recognizes his need to be rescued from the distraction of sin.

He requests God's presence to shine in his life as God teaches him.

He feels regret for those who reject God.

Put it to Practice!

Take a moment to consider each of the above points of our Psalmists writings. *How does each of these truths impact your life? Is there an action you are led to take regarding these truths?*

For example: Praises God for His word.

How do you offer praise to God for His word? What does this look like? What does it mean to praise God for something? (you could look up the definition of praise: meaning to express gratitude) How might having the value of God's word on your mind affect your actions or thoughts with others?

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

It is necessary for us to continually check our heart, to be willing and wanting to ask ourselves hard questions. To desire that God, in His love, show us the sin we still harbor in our hearts that may keep us from fully joining in His blessings.

Adam Clarke, in his commentary at the beginning of Hebrews chapter 4, says, "Will it avail any of us how near we get to heaven, if the door be shut before we arrive? How dreadful the thought, to have only missed being eternally saved! To run well, and yet to permit the devil, the world, or the flesh, to hinder in the few last steps! Reader, watch and be sober."

I wouldn't attest to the above quote as losing our salvation which cannot happen to a true believer. However, we can lose what we only thought we had because we never really bowed before the Lord Jesus Christ in acknowledgement of our need - in this case, salvation was never ours to claim. We can have the words, we can ascribe to the actions and we can still have an unchanged heart. *Do you know those who have all the 'right' answers, yet don't seem to exhibit a life change (especially when circumstances are difficult), or there doesn't seem to be fruit produced?*

Our reaction to the above should be sorrow, followed by an urgency to pray, to share Truth and to take stock that the foundation we are resting on is God alone. This brings us right back to Psalm 119:136.

Ps 119:136 My eyes shed streams of water, because they do not keep Thy law. Although David is referring to those who reject God, the same eternal place is reserved for all who are not called His children.