

Psalm 119 – Session 2

Week 11, verse 25

We are beginning a new section of 8 verses.

This portion has 'D' for its alphabetical letter: it sings of Depression, in the spirit of Devotion, Determination, and Dependence. TOD

Ps 119:25 My soul cleaves to the dust; Revive me according to Thy word.

Ps 119:25 My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word. (KJV)

Cleaves <dabaq> to impinge; cling or adhere; figuratively, to catch by pursuit – abide fast, cleave (fast together), follow close (hard after), be joined (together), keep (fast), overtake, pursue hard, stick, take.

Think of things that cling, things you have to peel away from what they are stuck to. Maybe it's a price tag or bar code that is stuck on something you've purchased. Maybe it's static in an item of clothing. You could picture something difficult to peel such as a tomato. Think of trying to separate the plastic bags in the produce section of a grocery store. **Have you ever hot glued your fingers together?** This is the picture of the word "cleaves" in Psalm 119:25.

He means in part that he was full of sorrow; for mourners in the east cast dust on their heads, and sat in ashes, and the Psalmist felt as if these ensigns of woe were glued to him, and his very soul was made to cleave to them because of his powerlessness to rise above his grief. Does he not also mean that he felt ready to die? Did he not feel his life absorbed and fast held by the grave's mould, half choked by the death dust? It may not be straining the language if we conceive that he also felt and bemoaned his earthly mindedness and spiritual deadness. There was a tendency in his soul to cling to earth which he greatly bewailed. Whatever was the cause of his complaint, it was no surface evil, but an affair of his inmost spirit; his soul cleaved to the dust; and it was not a casual and accidental falling into the dust, but a continuous and powerful tendency, or cleaving to the earth. TOD

Remember Paul's words in Romans.

Ro 7:18-23 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good [is] not for the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish. But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. I find then the principle that evil is present in

me, the one who wishes to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, 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.

The Gospels of Matthew and Mark repeat the same concern.

Mt 26:41 "Keep watching and praying, that you may not enter into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Mr 14:38 "Keep watching and praying, that you may not come into temptation; the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

While the souls of the children of this world cleave to the earth as their portion, the children of light are greatly burdened, because of the remains of carnal affections in their hearts. It is unspeakable comfort to a gracious soul, to think with what tenderness all its complaints are received by a gracious God. Matthew Henry's Concise Commentary

With his complaint and humble plea; for every redeemed soul must expect to meet with trials, and sometimes to groan being burdened. My soul cleaveth to the dust; sunk under disease of body, or dejection of mind, and ready to drop into the grave; or feeling the vile affections of a fallen nature, attached to some earthly good, light, vain, and unsatisfactory, as the dust the wind scattereth. Ah, Lord! how often doth this foolish heart of mine thus cleave to the dust! Thomas Haweis

Many understand this verse merely as a complaint on account of deep affliction and peril of death, and as a prayer for the preservation of life. Yet it is evident that the Psalmist was conscious that, compared with his better judgment and the perfect standard of duty, his affections were exceedingly apt to cleave to worldly objects, which are but dust; and that he prayed for enlivening grace to render him more spiritually-minded. The word rendered "quicken me," signifies 'cause me to live;' and may mean, either preserve my life, give me life, or let me have more abundant life; or, according to a mode of expression peculiar to our language, Let me be lively; Let me have "life more abundantly." As the preservation of David's life from Saul's persecution was engaged for by special promise; so quickening grace, in answer to prayer, is promised in every part of scripture, or at least such prayers accord to the spirit of the whole sacred volume. Thomas Scott

Ps 119:37 Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity, and revive me in Thy ways.

Ps 119:40 Behold, I long for Thy precepts; revive me through Thy righteousness.

Ps 119:88 Revive me according to Thy lovingkindness, so that I may keep the testimony of Thy mouth.

Ps 119:93 I will never forget Thy precepts, for by them Thou hast revived me.

Ps 119:159 Consider how I love Thy precepts; revive me, O LORD, according to Thy lovingkindness.

Ps 71:20 Thou, who hast shown me many troubles and distresses, wilt revive me again, and wilt bring me up again from the depths of the earth. Mayest Thou increase my greatness, and turn [to] comfort me.

While it may be discouraging to see the propensity for sin we have in our lives, we can have faith that through the acceptance of Jesus' blood we will not be overcome by sin. Although there may be a constant fight dwelling within us between good and evil, we have God's promise that true believers in Him will not be condemned eternally.

Ro 8:1-2 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

Take a closer look at the words "revive me" in Psalm 119:25. This is the solution to David's problem. **What information can we gather from these two words?**

Revive <chayah> (quicken)KJV; to live, to revive: keep, make alive, nourish up, preserve, repair, restore, be whole

Revive: 1.cause to regain consciousness; 2.give new life or energy to; 3.be brought back to life, consciousness, or strength; 4.restore from a depressed, inactive, or unused state (definition from WordWeb)

The assumption is there is a need for improvement. Something is not as it should be. Remember, the Psalmist described his soul as cleaving to the dust.

The word "dust" means the earth; clay, mud, powder or even rubbish. **Have you ever tried to shoo a pesky fly away?** Think of something that has static – it seems almost impossible to get rid of. We are drawn to the world and its ways of sin just like iron particles are drawn to a magnet. In God's children there is a constant struggle to separate from the enticement of the world. This can be exhausting.

**Whom do you go to or where do you go or what do you go to when you are feeling the weightiness of life – physical, emotional, and spiritual?** God is the only one who preserves us, restores us and gives us life eternally.

Note that the answers to David's sorrows are not that God would stop them but that David would gain a better understanding of God's ways. The answer to all of our concerns is Christ. More of Him, less of us. In Him we can go through all life's fiery trials with a sense of peace and comfort for the future.

Think how you might apply this concept to the issues you are struggling with right now in your life. It might change your prayer from "change the situation" to "give me more grace to walk through it", or "remove that person from my life" to "teach me to love as You". In illness it may be "help my sufferings to bring glory to Your name", rather than "cure me".

What do you pray for? Is "more of God" the answer to your concerns?

### Application Questions

Where do you notice the world clinging to your life? In other words, where are you most enticed to be in the world rather than of heaven?

In Psalm 119:25, David does two important things:

- 1) He recognizes his weakness for sin, and
- 2) He sees God as the solution.

How are you actively using God's word to fight against the propensity of sin?

Read Romans 7:18-25. What is Paul saying in this section of scripture? How can you identify with him?

Read Psalm 119:37; 119:40; 119:88; 119:93; 119:159. What does the word revive mean? How are we revived? Why do we need to be revived?

In Psalm 119:25, the request is made to be revived *according to Thy word*.

Why is this important to note? Do you pray for the answers to your struggles to be according to your solutions or according to God's will?

How can you best apply this verse to your circumstances?