



For Further Study

Read and meditate on the passage below:

- ¹³² Turn to me and have mercy on me,
as you always do to those who love your name.
¹³³ Direct my footsteps according to your word;
let no sin rule over me. (Psalm 119:132-133)

This passage comes from the psalms, a song book for Hebrew worship. Chapter 119 is the longest chapter of the Bible, and it is broken down into sections that align with the Hebrew alphabet.

In verse 132, we see the poet crying out to God and pleading with him to “turn his attention to him in his time of need.” He asks God to extend mercy to him. He bases his request on God’s character. He knows that God has been faithful to extend his mercy to all who “love [his] name.” To love someone’s name is to love them as a person. Personal devotion is an expression of true love.

God not only extends mercy to those who love him, but he also directs our footsteps. God does not tell us what to do and then sit back and watch to see if we obey or not; rather, God invites us to walk with him on the journey. He is the God who is with us, directing our footsteps and showing us the way to experience fulfillment and goodness in life.

When we walk with God, we do what is “good” and avoid what is “evil.” We choose to not sin because we know that sin causes harm to ourselves, God, and others. So, instead of letting sin rule over us, we choose to let God reign in us. He loves us and wants what is best for us.

Consider how you might love God this week.
What are some ways that you can show your devotion to a bond or committed love to him?
How can you extend that love to others?

PRACTICE:

Spend time loving God
through loving people
like God loves you.

