

Discernment to Understand God's Word

Scripture Reading — Psalm 119:121-128

Give me discernment that I may understand your statutes. — Psalm 119:125

In this section of Psalm 119 we find some of the most memorable words in the entire psalm, as the writer declares that he loves God's Word "more than gold, more than pure gold." But if we lift this beautiful confession out of its context, we miss a more subtle truth in these verses: the psalmist's plea to *understand* God's Word.

In declaring how he treasures God's Word, the psalmist isn't merely offering a beautiful sentiment. He offers this like evidence in a court of law, as if he is testifying like a plaintiff. Because he loves God's words above all else and seeks to follow them, God should rescue him from his oppressors.

Knowing that we tend to see only our own point of view and that we often fall short, most of us would hesitate to put God on trial in a way like this. Nevertheless, we can learn from the psalmist's request. He acknowledges his need for help in understanding God's precious Word.

Though we may not all dare to call God to account in pleading for his help, we all need guidance in discerning the truth of God's Word. We hear God's voice most clearly when we ask him to remove our distractions and reveal himself and his will to us.

And when God *does* speak to us through his Word—as he certainly will—we must apply God's teaching to our daily lives.

Prayer

Teach us your Word, Lord, and help us to love your commands more than pure gold or anything else. Amen.

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