

*How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes! With my lips I declare all the rules of your mouth. In the way of your testimonies I delight as much as in all riches. I will meditate on your precepts and fix my eyes on your ways. I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.*  
[Psalm 119:9-16]

Psalm 119 is a beautiful Psalm (all 176 verses) talking about the joy of God's law. But verse 9 is what especially captures my attention. How do I keep my way pure? That is the million-dollar question (that is if you care about such things). The fact of the matter is that we are hardwired not to be obedient to God. Rather, we have a propensity towards setting ourselves up as a god. We want to be in charge. We want to control our destiny. We want what we want, and if God is not going to acquiesce to our demands then we will find someone/something else that will. In essence, our ways are not pure.

I have meditated on this Psalm often (especially verse 9). Because, let's face it, I have no clue what I truly need so therefore I want to strive for purity and clarity and obedience; thus submitting to the sovereignty of God. But once again, how do we do that?

(1) **Know the Word of the Lord.** Read your Bible; if only a few verses or a few minutes a day but read it. Once you get into a routine you will find yourselves reading more than a few verses or a few minutes and finding great joy in it.

(2) **Write about the Word of the Lord.** I have been exploring different ways of doing this from keeping a prayer journal to writing notes in a specialized journaling Bible. Write your thoughts and questions down, and then listen.

(3) **Pray about the Word of the Lord.** We need to open our hearts and minds and listen to what scripture is saying. Don't get caught up in putting meaning into scripture but rather let scripture speak to you. This takes practice and humility.

(4) **Talk about the Word of the Lord.** Get involved in a Bible study. If you can't find one; then start one. You don't need to be a Bible scholar to lead a Bible study; just a passion to learn and grow closer to God.

(5) **Listen to the Word of the Lord.** Faith comes through hearing, not reading or seeing. Listen to others read scripture AND listen to others expound, preach and teach on scripture.

How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to God's Word. It is straightforward. Open your Bible and I promise you, you won't be disappointed.