

Sermon Reflections

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How should we pray so we have a deep devotion to the Word of God? (Psalm 119:33-40)

Summary: The Bible-Centered Believer should earnestly pray to be converted by the Word of God. Pray for: **Spiritual Direction** from the Word of God; for **Spiritual Desires** from the Word of God; and for **Divine Confirmation** of the Word of God.

Be a Bible-Centered Believer that prays for Spiritual Direction from the Word of God. (vv. 33-35)

Pray before you begin to read (to hear from God). Ask God to teach you (v. 33) and give you understanding (v. 34) in order that you might take delight in walking according to His Word (v. 35).

- Our natural inclinations do not always align with the Word of God. As we look to our LORD for our daily bread, we must first pray and acknowledge our desperate need for Him because in and of ourselves we are inadequate (nothing.) I **must** depend on Him. How can you better incorporate these thoughts into your regular prayers and Bible reading without them becoming a check list? Think about these things tomorrow as you approach your Lord (or **even now** as you read this!)

Be a Bible-Centered Believer that that prays for Spiritual Desires from the Word of God. (vv. 36-37)

Ask God to give you an internal desire for His Word (v. 36) and the ability to look away from things that do not bring spiritual benefit (v. 37).

- The word “incline” means not only “to bow to”; but, also “to stretch for” and even when in doubt to trust Him and want His way FIRST! We are to “lean into” Him. The Bible-Centered Believer must look *away* from worthless things (v. 37) and look to God (for and in everything.) All too often we are inclined to our selfish gain (v. 36). What gains do you measure success by? What do you consider worth spending time gazing at?

Be a Bible-Centered Believer that that prays for Divine Confirmation from the Word of God (vv. 38-40)

- Do a brief self-evaluation here, using the measurements from Psalm 119:36-40 and determine if you can see God's confirmation of your ways. If you cannot see God's confirmation, pray. Then ask a believing brother or sister, who knows you well, for their input. How has God provided confirmation of His promises to you? What has He done to take away your reproach and give you a righteous life?