

The ABC's on the Word of God

Know the Word of God to Know
the God of the Word:

במה נזכה יצור את אריתו לשמור כדברך:
בכלי לבי דרשתך אליהם שוני ממעוטיך:
בלבי אפנתי אמרתך למען לא אחטא לך:
ברוך אתה יהוה למעני חננך:
בשפתי ספרתי כל משפטי יסוד:
בדרך עדותיך ששתי כגל כליהו
במקצרה אשיחה ואבישה ארחתך:
בחוקתיך אשתמשע לא אשכח דברך:

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If Aleph expressed the longing (v. 5) then Beth puts some legs on the desire:

The practical way of moving forward is to fix one's longing on the LORD and His Word (vv. 10, 12):

Here within the next two stanzas (Beth, Gimel) and even beyond we have the classroom and curriculum for life –

- 1) God – the gracious teacher
- 2) The Psalmist – the dependent student
- 3) The Textbook – the sufficient Word
- 4) The Classroom – this world

ב

I. The Question Raised – By what means? (v. 9a) (בְּמָה) (v. 9a)

- The question is practical:
- The question poses an illustrative case – “a young man” (נַעַר):
- The question regards a situation where the life of purity is under constant pressure:

ב

I. The Question Raised – By what means? (v. 9a) II. The Issue – Outward (v. 9a)

- How does he “keep pure (יִזְכֶּה) his way (דָּרְכּוֹ) אֵל, “course of living and acting”?”
- The issue is holiness or sanctification:
- How does one purify or cleanse one's way or walk, to keep it from the spotting of sin, or free it from it?
- By keeping according to God's Word (דְּבַרְךָ, לשמור):
- Regulate by God's revelation:

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I. The Question Raised – By what means? (v. 9a) II. The Issue – Outward (v. 9a)

III. The Answer – Inward (vv. 10-16)

The possibility of a pure life depends on –

A. The Direction of the Will (v. 10)

1) The deliberate direction (seek דְרִשְׁתָּהָּ of the whole heart (בְּכָל-לֵב) Godward:

- 2) The exercise of specific prayer (תְּשַׁנְּנֵנִי אֵל):
- The child of God exerts them self, but does not trust them self:

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The possibility of a pure life depends on –

A. The Direction of the Will (v. 10)

B. The Contents of Heart and Memory (v. 11a)

- The word of God is not merely an outward rule of conduct but to be a motive power and a life within in opposition to selfish action:

- “In heart” (בְּלֵב) not merely the seat of affections, but also the seat of thought and intellect, the seat of moral responsibility, and the seat of purpose and planning (cf. Prov 4:23):

- “Treasured up” (צִנְנָה) as in a place of utmost safety:

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The possibility of a pure life depends on –

A. The Direction of the Will (v. 10)

B. The Contents of Heart and Memory (v. 11a)

C. The Proper Regard for God – Adoration (v. 12a)

D. The Teachable Spirit (v. 12b)

- (cf. vv. 26, 33, 64, 66, 68, 108, 124, 135)

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D. The Teachable Spirit (v. 12b)

E. The Pre-occupations of the Mouth (v. 13)

- The verse opens with “lips” (בְּשִׁפְתַי) and ends with “mouth” (פִּי):

- Our conversation replete with what God has spoken:

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II. The Issue – Outward (v. 9a)

III. The Answer – Inward (vv. 10-16)

The possibility of a pure life depends on –

- A. *The Direction of the Will (v. 10)*
- B. *The Contents of Heart and Memory (v. 11a)*
- C. *The Proper Regard for God (v. 12a)*
- D. *The Teachable Spirit (v. 12b)*
- E. *The Pre-occupations of the Mouth (v. 13)*
- F. *The Affections (vv. 14, 16a)*

- (v. 14) "Rejoice" (רָצוּתָהּ) is an exuberant, enthusiastic, deep seated delight, transcendent contentment:

- (v. 16) "Delight" (reflexive אֲשֶׁתְּעַשֶׂעַ) "I delight myself" "in Your statutes" (בְּחֻקֵיךָ), the sphere of delight stated first in the verse:

ב

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II. The Issue – Outward (v. 9a)

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The possibility of a pure life depends on –

- A. *The Direction of the Will (v. 10)*
- B. *The Contents of Heart and Memory (v. 11a)*
- C. *The Proper Regard for God (v. 12a)*
- D. *The Teachable Spirit (v. 12b)*
- E. *The Pre-occupations of the Mouth (v. 13)*
- F. *The Affections (vv. 14, 16a)*
- G. *The Subjects of Thought (vv. 15, 16b)*

- "I will muse, ponder with delight, give serious consideration to" (אָסִיחָהּ) (cf. vv. 23, 27, 48, 78, 97, 99, 148)

- "I will look unto, have regard to" (אֲבִיטָהּ)

➤ The love for God's word is love for God:

➤ This love is seen in the inner delight and joy in God and His revelation:

➤ This love is expressed in a heart attitude, in affections, in actions, and in words:

➤ In his total being the godly man cries out for God and delights in His will: