

**The ABC's on the Word of God**

דבקה לעשר נפשי מיני בדברך:  
 דרפי ספרתי ומעני למני חסידך:  
 דרד' פקודיה הביגני ואשיתה בגללותיה:  
 דלשה נפשי מתוהה קיפני בדברך:  
 דרד' ישקר ספר מאני ותורתה חני:  
 דרד' אמונה בחרתי משפטך שריתי:  
 דבקותי בעדותך יהיה אליהבישני:  
 דרד' מצותה ארוץ כי תרחיב לבי:

הורני יהנה ערך חלוד ואצאנה עקב:  
 הכיני ואצרת תורמך ואשמנה ככלילב:  
 הדריכני בנתיב מצותיך מי"בו חפצתי:  
 הטילבי אליעדומיך ואל אלי"בצע:  
 העבר עיני מראות שאן בדךה חני:  
 הקם לעבדך אמרנה אשר לראתך:  
 העבר חרפתי אשר יגורתי כי משפטך טובים:  
 הנתה מאבתי לפקודיך בדרךך חני:

ד ה ה

- I. The Desire to Run the Lord's Way (v. 32)
- A. The Focus on the Way (vv. 27, 30, 32; cf. vv. 26, 29)
- 1. The "False Way" (faithlessness) (פדד' שש"ק) (v. 29a)
  - The way of disloyalty and betrayal to the covenant values:
- 2. The "Faithful Way" (v. 30a)
- B. The Earnest Desire for the Lord's Way (vv. 30-31a, 32)
  - The psalmist makes a deliberate decision to set his footsteps on this latter course, recapturing an old experience:
  - 1. Chosen (בחרתי) (v. 30a)
  - 2. Cling (דבדתי) (v. 31a)
  - 3. Run (רדדתי) (v. 32a)
- C. The Eagerness to Go the Lord's Way – Run (רדדתי) (v. 32)

ד ה ה

- I. The Desire to Run the Lord's Way (v. 32)
- II. The Threat to Running the Lord's Way (vv. 25-40)
  - A. The Hostile Environment (Gimel)
    - 1. Alien residency:
    - 2. Society contains those who go astray morally:
    - 3. Personal opposition encountered:

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- I. The Desire to Run the Lord's Way (v. 32)
- II. The Threat to Running the Lord's Way (vv. 25-40)
  - A. The Hostile Environment (Gimel)
  - B. The Difficulties of Life (Daleth)
    - 1. Humiliation – Experiencing earthiness and mortality (v. 25)
    - 2. Weariness (v. 28)
    - 3. Temptation (v. 29)
    - 4. Fear of Disappointment (v. 31)
      - Things can get us down (v. 25 "My soul cleaves to the dust" [דבקה לעפר נפשי])
      - Life can be too much (v. 28 "My soul weeps because of grief" [נזלקה נפשי]) – "My soul is sleepless with depression"

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- I. The Desire to Run the Lord's Way (v. 32)
- II. The Threat to Running the Lord's Way (vv. 25-40)
  - A. The Hostile Environment (Gimel)
  - B. The Difficulties of Life (Daleth)
  - C. The Wayward Heart (He)
    - The tension here is in the heart – heart of loyalty threatened by heart-disloyalty:
      - 1) Total Commitment – Keeping God's word with the whole heart (דבדתי) (vv. 33-35)
      - 2) Inner Threat – The divided heart (vv. 36-37)
      - 3) Divine Provision – Faithful care and supply (vv. 38-40)
    - The wayward heart which wants to obey (v. 34) but can easily be drawn away to selfish ends (v. 36) and follow the enticements of the eyes (v. 37)

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- I. The Desire to Run the Lord's Way (v. 32)
- II. The Threat to Running the Lord's Way (vv. 25-40)
- III. The Dependence Needed in Running the Lord's Way (vv. 25-40)
  - We are encouraged throughout these two stanzas to pray for divine aid in adhering to the Lord's truth:
  - The help that we hope to obtain by prayer is to be the basis on which our resolutions should rest (cf. v. 33):

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- I. The Desire to Run the Lord's Way (v. 32)
- II. The Threat to Running the Lord's Way (vv. 25-40)
- III. The Dependence Needed in Running the Lord's Way (vv. 25-40)
  - A. Times of Trouble are Times for Prayer:
    - 1. Petition for Renewal (v. 25b; vv. 37b, 40b)
    - 2. Petition for Progress in Knowledge (vv. 26b-27; vv. 33a, 34a)
    - 3. Petition for Strength in Need (v. 28b)
    - 4. Petition for Grace – Divine favor to the meritless needy (v. 29)
    - 5. Petition for a Favorable Outcome (v. 31b)
    - 6. Petition for Guidance (v. 35a)
    - 7. Petition for Preservation (vv. 36, 39)
    - 8. Petition for Fear (v. 38)

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- I. The Desire to Run the Lord's Way (v. 32)
- II. The Threat to Running the Lord's Way (vv. 25-40)
- III. The Dependence Needed in Running the Lord's Way (vv. 25-40)
  - A. *Times of Trouble are Times for Prayer:*
  - B. *Times of Trouble are Times for Awareness:*
    - 1. The Lord can direct us toward true happiness (v. 35)
    - 2. The Lord can keep us from unworthy pursuits (vv. 36-37)
    - 3. The Lord can save us from disgrace (v. 39)
    - 4. The Lord can renew the springs of life (v. 40)

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- I. The Desire to Run the Lord's Way (v. 32)
- II. The Threat to Running the Lord's Way (vv. 25-40)
- III. The Dependence Needed in Running the Lord's Way (vv. 25-40)
  - A. *Times of Trouble are Times for Prayer:*
  - B. *Times of Trouble are Times for Awareness:*
  - C. *Times of Trouble are Times for Special Commitment:*
    - 1. It is a time to fix our mind on His wonderful word (v. 27b)
    - 2. It is a time to choose and set our heart on his truth (v. 30)
    - 3. It is a time to meet trouble with obedience (v. 31 – ‘cleave to Your testimonies’)
    - 4. It is a time to make an effort (v. 32 – ‘I will run’)

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- II. The Threat to Running the Lord's Way (vv. 25-40)
- III. The Dependence Needed in Running the Lord's Way (vv. 25-40)
  - A. *Times of Trouble are Times for Prayer:*
  - B. *Times of Trouble are Times for Awareness:*
  - C. *Times of Trouble are Times for Special Commitment:*
  - D. *Times of Trouble are Times for Resting in God – Because God will always be true to His word:*
    - 1. v. 25b – “According to Your word” (קְדַרְךָ)
    - 2. v. 28b – “According to Your word” (קְדַרְךָ)