

(Psalm 119:7-14, NIV84)

I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws.
I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me.

How can a young man keep his way pure?
By living according to your word.

I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands.
I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Praise be to you, O LORD; teach me your decrees.
With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth.
I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches.

Word from the Father's House

I will meditate in thy statutes. . . for thy word quickened me. Psalm 119:48, 50

That letter from home! How it is looked for and longed for by the soldier overseas or by the lonely wanderer far from his father's house! Food or drink, health or wealth, friends or fortune: none of these will satisfy that aching hunger which craves just a word from home.

In a far higher sense, the psalmist tells us, the heart of the child of God yearns for word from his heavenly Father's house. From that Word he draws his spiritual refreshment, his courage for the way. Our heavenly Father has addressed a letter to each one of his children. It is a letter of admonition and instruction, of consolation and encouragement, of joy and triumph. This letter is to be found in the Holy Scripture.

Especially in those pages of the Bible which tell us of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of his Son (all in our behalf!), he has poured out his loving fatherly heart, telling us the good news about our elder Brother, who has won complete redemption for us and who is even now back in the Father's house preparing a place for us and awaiting our arrival there. Our Bible is our letter from the Father's house, our "word from home".

How we should turn to it again and again while absent from the homeland! How eager we are to be able to gather with fellow-pilgrims every Sunday (O Lord, quickly restore that privilege!) to hear another portion read and pondered and expounded. It is a Word from the Father's house. Let us hear it! Let us heed it! Let us love it!

How precious is the Book divine, By inspiration giv'n!
Bright as a lamp its doctrines shine To guide our souls to heav'n.

This lamp through all the tedious night Of life shall guide our way Till we behold the clearer light
Of an eternal day.

Lord, we thank You for Your Holy Word. May we always treasure it as a Word from our Father's house. May it guide and strengthen us on our homeward way.
For Jesus' sake. Amen.