

Lesson 17: Psalm 119:129-136 – Pe

Prayer Requests in Light of God's Word

ESV	NKJV	NASB	NIV	NLT
129 Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them.	129 Your testimonies are wonderful; Therefore my soul keeps them.	129 Your testimonies are wonderful; Therefore my soul observes them.	129 Your statutes are wonderful; therefore I obey them.	129 Your laws are wonderful. No wonder I obey them!
129 Your laws are wonderful; therefore my soul (gladly) obeys them.				
<p>Commentary: Your testimonies are wonderful. Marvelous. “Exciting wonder; unusually good.” (<i>Merriam-Webster Dictionary</i>) The psalmist’s admiration for, delight in, God’s Word. God’s Word is qualitatively different from all other writings. Therefore my soul keeps them. His admiration for God’s Word motivated him to obey it.</p>				
<p>Application: Please help me to continually see Your Word for the wonderful treasure it is and then respond in glad obedience to what it reveals. Lord, thank You for Your wonderful Word! Please help me to develop this attitude, that Your Word is wonderful, to the extent that I am deeply committed to obeying all that You reveal to me. It is a great privilege to have Your Word, to be able to read, study, contemplate, live in accordance to it, and share it with others.</p>				
130 The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.	130 The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.	130 The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.	130 The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.	130 The teaching of your word gives light, so even the simple can understand.
130 The unfolding (teaching) of Your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.				
<p>Commentary: The unfolding of your words gives light. God’s Word is the source of spiritual light in an otherwise dark world. Like a beautiful cloth that is all folded up, God’s Word needs to be unfolded so that its beauty may be fully appreciated. Unfolding. “Lit. ‘opening,’ here meaning (1) the revelation of your words, (2) the interpretation...of your words, or (3) the entering of your words into the heart.” (<i>NIV Study Bible, p. 920</i>) Simple. “The childlike, those whose understanding and judgment have not yet matured...” (<i>NIV Study Bible, footnote on Psalm 19:7, p. 803</i>) This verse is a very good purpose statement for the book of Proverbs.</p>				

<p>Application: As I read and contemplate Your Word, please unfold its beauty to me. Give me insight and understanding. Please help me to skillfully unfold its beauty for others to see. Thank You for the privilege of preaching and teaching Your Word to others. May my teaching truly give understanding to the people.</p>				
<p>131 I open my mouth and pant, because I long for your commandments.</p>	<p>131 I opened my mouth and panted, For I longed for Your commandments.</p>	<p>131 I opened my mouth wide and panted, For I longed for Your commandments.</p>	<p>131 I open my mouth and pant, longing for your commands.</p>	<p>131 I pant with expectation, longing for your commands.</p>
<p>131 I open my mouth and pant with eager expectation, longing for Your commands.</p>				
<p>Commentary: I open my mouth and pant, longing for your commands. (NIV) Longing for spiritual nourishment, light and understanding (vs. 130). Like a thirsty man longing for a drink of cool, refreshing water. Almost a desperation. Longing for light and understanding (vs. 130).</p>				
<p>Application: Please give me this deep longing and eager anticipation for Your Word. May my longing be satisfied as I spend time with You in Your Word.</p>				
<p>132 Turn to me and be gracious to me, as is your way with those who love your name.</p>	<p>132 Look upon me and be merciful to me, As Your custom is toward those who love Your name.</p>	<p>132 Turn to me and be gracious to me, After Your manner with those who love Your name.</p>	<p>132 Turn to me and have mercy on me, as you always do to those who love your name.</p>	<p>132 Come and show me your mercy, as you do for all who love your name.</p>
<p>132 Turn to me and be gracious (merciful) to me, as You always do with those who love Your name.</p>				
<p>Commentary: Turn to me and be gracious to me. A prayer request based on the character and nature of God. As is your way with those who love your name. God's name stands for God Himself. To love His name is to love God Himself. What a wonderful truth, that God always has mercy on those who love Him. God's faithfulness to His own character. Those who love your name. In this verse, your name stands in the place of a synonym for God's Word. To love God's name implies a love for His Word, as well. Love for God is manifested in love for His Word and vice-versa.</p>				
<p>Application: Thank You for Your grace and mercy to me. Please help me to love You and Your Word more and more. Please forgive me that I do not love You as much as I ought.</p>				

<p>133 Keep steady my steps according to your promise, and let no iniquity get dominion over me.</p>	<p>133 Direct my steps by Your word, And let no iniquity have dominion over me.</p>	<p>133 Establish my footsteps in Your word, And do not let any iniquity have dominion over me.</p>	<p>133 Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me.</p>	<p>133 Guide my steps by your word, so I will not be overcome by evil.</p>
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133 Establish my footsteps in Your word, and let no sin have dominion over me.

Commentary:

Keep steady my steps according to your promise. To be led, guided, controlled by the Word of God in our behavior. If we are controlled by the Word of God and the Spirit of God, then we will not be controlled by sin or our sin nature.

And let no iniquity get dominion over me. Sinful habits literally rewire our brain. Once that happens, it is very difficult to undo. Addiction.

“Let me have no governor but God; let the throne of my heart be filled by him, and none other.” (*Adam Clarke’s Commentary*)

“The prayer is, that no form of sin, that no wicked passion or propensity, might be allowed to rule over him. He who is willing that any one sin should rule in his heart, though he should be free from all other forms of sin, cannot be a pious man.” (*Barnes’ Notes*)

James 2:10 – “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.”

Psalms 19:13 – “Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.”

“When we experience the love of God in our hearts, we keep His commandments (John 14:15), and obedience to His commandments sets us free from the slavery of sin (Rom 6). The word ‘dominion’ means ‘autocratic rule,’ but sin is not supposed to have dominion over us (Rom 6:12-16).” (*Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary: Old Testament*)

“Then, ‘let not any iniquity have dominion over me’; that is, ‘Lord, preserve me from any thought, or word, or deed which would be contrary to Thy mind and will!’” (*C.H. Spurgeon, The Biblical Illustrator (Old Testament)*)

“A despotism which, in the first place, he never ought to have allowed; but having allowed, he should break away from and become heroic and free... sin manacles the soul, shuts out its light, and binds its faculties in chains...” (*Homilist.*)

“O, my Lord, suffer no iniquity to sit down on the throne of my heart and make me its serf and vassal.” (*C.H. Spurgeon, The Biblical Illustrator: Old Testament*)

“He prays for deliverance from the power of sin: ‘Let no iniquity have dominion over me, so as to gain my consent to it, and that I should be led captive by it.’ The dominion of sin is to be dreaded and deprecated by every one of us; and, if in sincerity we pray against it, we may receive that promise as an answer to the prayer (Rom 6:14), *Sin shall not have dominion over you.*” (*Matthew Henry’s Commentary*)

Application:

Dear Lord, as You know, I have allowed sin to dominate certain areas of my life. Please forgive me for not establishing my footsteps in Your Word. I have too often been controlled by the evil desires of my sinful nature and therefore dominated by sin. I want to be controlled by the pure desires of the Holy Spirit and therefore dominated by righteousness and holiness.

Sin is a terrible master. It extracts a horrible price from those who are ruled by it. Please help me to be controlled by (dominated by) Your Word and Your Holy Spirit.				
134 Redeem me from man's oppression, that I may keep your precepts.	134 Redeem me from the oppression of man, That I may keep Your precepts.	134 Redeem me from the oppression of man, That I may keep Your precepts.	134 Redeem me from the oppression of men, that I may obey your precepts.	134 Ransom me from the oppression of evil people; then I can obey your commandments.
134 Deliver me from man's oppression, that I may obey Your precepts.				
<p>Commentary: Redeem me from man's oppression. We can get so focused on the evil that people are perpetrating against us that we lose our focus on God and His Word. Redeem. "Here, as often, a synonym for 'deliver.'" <i>(NIV Study Bible, p. 920)</i></p>				
<p>Application: Please help me to obey Your Word no matter what evil people may do to me. Please deliver me from the fear of man and the oppression of men.</p>				
135 Make your face shine upon your servant, and teach me your statutes.	135 Make Your face shine upon Your servant, And teach me Your statutes.	135 Make Your face shine upon Your servant, And teach me Your statutes.	135 Make your face shine upon your servant and teach me your decrees.	135 Look upon me with love; teach me your decrees.
135 Make Your face shine upon Your servant and teach me Your decrees.				
<p>Commentary: Make your face shine upon your servant. A desired for God's blessing. "May I experience Your good hand of blessing on my life and ministry."</p>				
<p>Application: Lord, please look upon me with love, grace and mercy and teach me Your decrees.</p>				
136 My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.	136 Rivers of water run down from my eyes, Because men do not keep Your law.	136 My eyes shed streams of water, Because they do not keep Your law.	136 Streams of tears flow from my eyes, for your law is not obeyed.	136 Rivers of tears gush from my eyes because people disobey your instructions.
136 My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep Your law.				
<p>Commentary: My eyes shed streams of tears. Weeping because people do not obey God's law.</p>				

Paul longed for the salvation of Israel, even to the point that he was willing to give up his salvation in exchange for theirs. (Romans 9:1-3)

Application:

Please help me to develop this kind of love for You and Your Word; help me to have compassion on people, realizing that they are not the true enemy (Ephesians 6:12). I confess that I do not have this kind of compassion, Your compassion, for people.

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129 Your laws are wonderful; therefore my soul (gladly) obeys them.

130 The unfolding (teaching) of Your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.

131 I open my mouth and pant with eager expectation, longing for Your commands.

132 Turn to me and be gracious (merciful) to me, as You always do with those who love Your name.

133 Establish my footsteps in Your word, and let no sin have dominion over me.

134 Deliver me from man's oppression, that I may obey Your precepts.

135 Make Your face shine upon Your servant and teach me Your decrees.

136 My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep Your law.