

Lesson 8: Psalm 119:57-64 – Heth

Because God is My Portion, I Follow His Word

ESV	NKJV	NASB	NIV	NLT
57 The Lord is my portion; I promise to keep your words.	57 You are my portion, O Lord; I have said that I would keep Your words.	57 The Lord is my portion; I have promised to keep Your words.	57 You are my portion, O Lord; I have promised to obey your words.	57 Lord, you are mine! I promise to obey your words!
57 O Lord, You are my portion; I promise to obey Your words!				
<p>Commentary:</p> <p>The Lord is my portion. If we lost all else, we would still have the Lord and we would have enough. “O Lord, with You I have everything and without You, I have nothing!” If we need it, He will provide it. If He doesn’t provide it, we don’t need it.</p> <p>The psalmist considered God to be his portion rather than houses or lands or wealth or possessions. He sought first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Mt. 6:33).</p> <p>Cp. Psalm 73:26. “The Lord himself is his sustainer, his preserver--his very life.” (<i>NIV Study Bible footnote on Psalm 73:26, p. 861</i>)</p> <p>“Far from finding the words of the Lord a heavy burden, the writer has had the experience that the keeping of God’s Word was a rare privilege, his ‘portion,’ in fact, a word that is used to express the idea of a worthwhile inheritance that falls to a man’s lot.” (<i>Leupold, Exposition, p. 836</i>)</p> <p>“So God’s promises are his hope, and God’s righteous laws his delight.” (<i>NIV Study Bible footnote on Psalm 119:57-64, p. 917</i>)</p> <p>I promise to keep your words. The psalmist’s determination to obey God’s Word.</p> <p>“The thought is that we cannot have God without knowing His Word.” (<i>Ryrie Study Bible footnote on Psalm 119:57-64, p. 913</i>)</p>				
<p>Application:</p> <p>“With You, O Lord, I have enough—all that I need.”</p> <p>“Lord, I confess my multiple failures to obey Your Word. Please give me the determination to obey.”</p>				
58 I entreat your favor with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise.	58 I entreated Your favor with my whole heart; Be merciful to me according to Your word.	58 I sought Your favor with all my heart; Be gracious to me according to Your word.	58 I have sought your face with all my heart; be gracious to me according to your promise.	58 With all my heart I want your blessings. Be merciful as you promised.
58 I seek Your favor (blessing) with all my heart; be merciful to me according to the promises of Your word.				

Commentary:

I entreat your favor with all my heart. Wholeheartedly seeking after God.

I have sought your face with all my heart. (NIV) To be face-to-face speaks of intimate fellowship. The psalmist sought intimate fellowship with the Lord.

be gracious to me according to your promise. God’s activities are always in accordance with His character and His promises. We can pray confidently when we pray in accordance with God’s character and promises in mind.

Application:

“I want Your favor and blessing on my life more than anything else in the world! Please cause me to earnestly desire to meet the requirements that are necessary to experience Your blessings. And yes, please be merciful to me—thank You for Your undeserved mercy, that You do not deal with me as my sins deserve.”

“Thank You, Lord, for the privilege of being able to enter into intimate fellowship with You. Thank You for opening up the way through the death and resurrection of Your Son. Please help me to seek You wholeheartedly.”

“Allow me, enable me, help me to experience, to enter into intimate fellowship with You.”

59 When I think on my ways, I turn my feet to your testimonies;	59 I thought about my ways, And turned my feet to Your testimonies.	59 I considered my ways And turned my feet to Your testimonies.	59 I have considered my ways and have turned my steps to your statutes.	59 I pondered the direction of my life, and I turned to follow your laws.
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59 When I think about my ways (the way I live and the direction of my life), I turn my feet (steps) to Your testimonies.

Commentary:

When I think on my ways. “...the way to be followed has been carefully considered and then deliberately pursued. In fact, a certain eagerness marked this course of procedure.” (Leupold, *Exposition*, p. 836)

A careful evaluation of his life and conduct in the light of God’s Word.

I turn my feet to your testimonies. He chose the way of the Lord, the path of righteousness and life vs. the path of the wicked and death.

Application:

This should be an ongoing, daily, moment by moment process—studying God’s Word and then examining my life and bringing my ways into conformity to its teachings.

God’s Word is like a road map. I should study it carefully and then travel the path of life in accordance with its directions.

60 I hasten and do not delay to keep your commandments.	60 I made haste, and did not delay To keep Your commandments.	60 I hastened and did not delay To keep Your commandments.	60 I will hasten and not delay to obey your commands.	60 I will hurry, without delay, to obey your commands.
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60 I will hurry and not delay to obey Your commands.

Commentary:

I hasten and do not delay. Eager obedience.

to keep your commandments. A servant who is eager to obey his master. It's not like when we tell our children to do something and they reply, "Okay. Hang on a minute," while they finish something else. He immediately drops whatever he is doing in order to obey. Nothing else takes priority over his eager obedience to the words of his master.

Application: "Lord, please help me to respond immediately, quickly, eagerly to what You say to me in Your Word."

61 Though the cords of the wicked ensnare me, I do not forget your law.

61 The cords of the wicked have bound me, But I have not forgotten Your law.

61 The cords of the wicked have encircled me, But I have not forgotten Your law.

61 Though the wicked bind me with ropes, I will not forget your law.

61 Evil people try to drag me into sin, but I am firmly anchored to your instructions.

61 The wicked have bound me with cords, but I will not forget Your law.

Commentary:

"...he did not allow himself to become so disturbed... as to let that difficulty drive from his mind the law of his God." (*Leupold, Exposition, p. 836*)

Bitter oppression would not keep him from his devotion to God's Word.

Application:

I have found it to be a temptation that when I am under stress, it is very easy to forget God's Word and turn to the indulgence of the desires of the flesh to dull the emotional pain. What a contrast with the psalmist!

62 At midnight I rise to praise you, because of your righteous rules.

62 At midnight I will rise to give thanks to You, Because of Your righteous judgments.

62 At midnight I shall rise to give thanks to You Because of Your righteous ordinances.

62 At midnight I rise to give you thanks for your righteous laws.

62 I rise at midnight to thank you for your just regulations.

62 I rise at midnight to give praise and thanks to You because of Your righteous laws.

Commentary:

"So deeply was he engrossed in it and its wisdom that at the thought of the rich treasure that this Word was to him he would arise at midnight (v. 62) to give thanks for these righteous ordinances that the Lord had taught him to know and to prize." (*Leupold, Exposition, p. 836*)

Sleep, necessary as it was, took a back seat to God's Word.

<p>Application: People of the world will give up a night’s sleep to engage in their worldly activities. Am I willing to give up my sleep in order to engage in the contemplation of the Word and to pray? I stand condemned!</p>				
<p>63 I am a companion of all who fear you, of those who keep your precepts.</p>	<p>63 I am a companion of all who fear You, And of those who keep Your precepts.</p>	<p>63 I am a companion of all those who fear You, And of those who keep Your precepts.</p>	<p>63 I am a friend to all who fear you, to all who follow your precepts.</p>	<p>63 I am a friend to anyone who fears you— anyone who obeys your commandments.</p>
<p>63 I am a friend to all who fear You, to all who obey Your precepts.</p>				
<p>Commentary: The fear of the Lord is manifested in obedience to His Word. “...this is the procedure followed by all true children of God.” (<i>Leupold, Exposition, p. 836</i>) He had fellowship with those who shared his devotion and commitment to God and His Word. Allegiance to God’s Word was a prerequisite in his friendships.</p>				
<p>Application: Jesus was a friend of sinners and I should be, too. But my deepest friendships should be with those who fear the Lord and keep His commandments.</p>				
<p>64 The earth, O Lord, is full of your steadfast love; teach me your statutes!</p>	<p>64 The earth, O Lord, is full of Your mercy; Teach me Your statutes.</p>	<p>64 The earth is full of Your lovingkindness, O Lord; Teach me Your statutes.</p>	<p>64 The earth is filled with your love, O Lord; teach me your decrees.</p>	<p>64 O Lord, your unfailing love fills the earth; teach me your decrees.</p>
<p>64 O Lord, the earth is full of Your unfailing love and mercy; teach me Your decrees.</p>				
<p>Commentary: The earth, O Lord, is full of your steadfast love. “Because wherever one looks, evidences of God’s steadfast love are discernible, such a loving Lord must have given statutes to the children of men that are in every sense most valuable and delightful.” (<i>Leupold, Exposition, pp. 836-37</i>) The Lord is manifesting His love to us every single day, if we have our spiritual radar turned on to see it. Teach me your statutes. “The psalmist begs the Lord to grant him the true understanding of what He has revealed in manifold ways. Such revelation is a precious treasure.” (<i>Leupold, Exposition, pp. 836-37</i>)</p>				

Application:

“Thank You for Your unfailing love and mercy, O Lord.”

“Dear Lord, please give me the eyes to see Your love and the faith to believe that Your love is operative in every circumstance of my life. Help me to feel your love, to sense it, to experience it today. May it reach me and transform me. Please forgive me for the things that I do that prevent Your love from reaching me. Forgive me for taking Your love for granted.”

Heth

57 O Lord, You are my portion; I promise to obey Your words!

58 I seek Your favor (blessing) with all my heart; be merciful to me according to the promises of Your word.

59 When I think about my ways (the way I live and the direction of my life), I turn my feet (steps) to Your testimonies.

60 I will hurry and not delay to obey Your commands.

61 The wicked have bound me with cords, but I will not forget Your law.

62 I rise at midnight to give praise and thanks to You because of Your righteous laws.

63 I am a friend to all who fear You, to all who obey Your precepts.

64 O Lord, the earth is full of Your unfailing love and mercy; teach me Your decrees.