

32 I will run the course of Your commandments,
For You shall enlarge my heart.



He

33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of **Your statutes,**
And I shall keep it to the end.

34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep **Your law;**
Indeed, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

35 Make me walk in the path of **Your commandments,**
For I delight in it.

36 Incline my heart to **Your testimonies,**
And not to covetousness.

37 Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things,
And **revive me** in **Your way.**

38 Establish Your word to Your servant,
Who is devoted to fearing You.

39 Turn away my reproach which I dread,
For **Your judgments** are good.

40 Behold, I long for **Your precepts;**
Revive me in **Your righteousness.**



WAW

41 Let Your mercies come also to me, O LORD—
Your salvation according to Your word.

Psalm 119:33-40 passage notes

The *He* passage has at least two noteworthy characteristics. The first is that here we have a list of virtually every term that the psalmist uses for God's word:

Your statutes
Your law
Your commandments
Your testimonies
Your way
Your word
Your judgments
Your precepts
Your righteousness

Nine terms in eight verses, each term occurring only once (with the exception of the word "way," which appears in two different forms--"the way of Your statutes" in verse 33, and "Your way" in verse 37).

The passage's second noteworthy aspect is its consistent repetition of the imperative mood--again, nine times in eight verses. We can learn a lot of things about prayer from Psalm 119, not the least of which is to dare to make direct requests: *Teach me, give me, revive me*. Our God delights in giving his children good things, so we need not be shy about asking for them.

Some of the requests here are curious ones. "Incline my heart to Your testimonies," for example. It seems to me that it should be the responsibility of the psalmist to incline his own heart in a given direction. (Compare verse 112: "I have inclined my heart to perform Your statutes forever, to the very end.") The same could be said about the requests of verses 35 and 37; we all have the choice of walking in God's paths or not, of focusing on worthless things or not. I think the effort of the psalmist to live faithfully is a given in these verses, though; by phrasing his requests in this way, he is acknowledging here as he does throughout the psalm (e.g., vs. 10) that even his best resolutions can only bear fruit with God's continued work of grace in his life.

Memorization notes--The page layout reflects the fact that the first three verses and the last verse of this section use the word "me" within the psalmist's requests (Teach **me**, Give **me**, Make **me**, Revive **me**); the other four use "my" or "Your" (Incline **my** heart, etc.--with the exception being the occurrence of "Revive me" in the last half of vs. 37.)