



## Our Choice

As you are memorizing, I'm sure God is depositing understanding and insight into your mind and heart. When we focus on God's Word it gives Him time to speak to us. As I memorize and share with you, I am just relaying what He has shown me. That is why I believe Bible memorization should be a lifestyle for us; it encourages unending conversation with Him!

Even into just these first four verses, we are seeing different names for God's Word.

Depending on the version you are using, in these verses, God's Word has been called a variety of things... Word, Law, Regulations, Statutes, Commands. But make no mistake, each of these are referring to the same thing, the eternal, settled Word of God. In fact, if you read through all of Psalm 119, which is the longest chapter in the Bible (176 verses to be exact) you will be amazed at all the references and descriptions given to God's Word.

As I started memorizing verse 9, I thought of these words, "Because I said so." Have you ever been told that before? Maybe as an adult you have even said it yourself. I get that feeling from verse 91. In verses 89-90 God said His Word, His faithfulness and the earth were settled. God just wants it that way and really, who are we to question Him. In fact, verse 91 makes it very clear that everything serves the plan He has put in place. In other words, no one has an opportunity to create another plan. Recently I was reviewing our verses out loud with a friend who is memorizing in the NLT translation. (By the way, reviewing out loud is a great tool). I liked the way the NLT worded verse 91:

***"Your regulations remain true to this day, for everything serves your plans."***

*Psalm 119:91 (NLT)*

"Everything serves Your plans." The NASV says, "All things are Thy servants." This is pretty direct. Words like "everything" and "all things" don't leave a lot of room for misunderstanding do they? Verse 92, just keeps right on going with that thought. Once again, let's look at the NLT version for verse 92. It says,

***"If your instructions hadn't sustained me with joy, I would have died in my misery."***

*Psalm 119:92 (NLT)*

Here is what I see. God's Word is settled; everything serves and comes up under the authority of it. As we delight in His Word, the provision of it is life and blessing. If we disdain His Word, the result will be misery and death. We can't deceive ourselves into thinking that we can reject His Word and do our own thing. There is no rejection of His Word, it is settled, forever. Rejection of it isn't a choice; it is already settled. His Word is eternal. The choice is delight or disdain. If we choose to disdain it, we are simply choosing to reject the blessings of His Word, for all things are His servants and will serve His plan. Why? Because... He said so. Consider these additional versions of verse 92 that highlight the blessing of delighting in His Word.

***If Your law had not been my delight, then I would have perished in my affliction. (NASV)***

***If I had not loved Your teachings, I would have died from my sufferings. (NCV)***

Years ago, I was miserable and I began to pray for God to give me a love for His Word. I knew I needed it, but I didn't have it on my own. God is so good, He even gave me the desire to make the right choice. He gave me a love for His Word. I have learned that delighting in His Word is more than just saying, "I believe what God says." It is more than owning a nice Bible and taking it to church. It is a true adoration, a longing for what God says, a longing so strong that one would be willing to set other things aside to lean in to hear from God. And then that longing translates into action. I know that I couldn't have created that longing in my own heart, God had to give it to me. Today I can honestly say, "If His Word had not become my delight, I would have died in my depression, strife, shame, rejection, selfishness, and more." His Word has redirected all of that. It has totally reshaped me.

What about you? Is the Word a delight to you? If so, take a moment and consider what would have happened to you if it had not been your delight? Celebrate the good plan God has given you in His Word. We don't have to look far to see the destruction that comes from a disdain for God's Word. People are miserable in marriages that are a mess, emotions that are out of control, debt that is all consuming, greediness that creates all kinds of issues... we could go on and on. The Word has direction for all these things and more. As we delight in what God says, He rescues us out of what could be and brings us into the blessing of righteous living.

We have a choice, delight or disdain. I will close with this: I haven't stopped praying for a love for His Word. I know in this world, with all its distractions, delight for the Word could easily slip from me. God gives us a choice, but it is my conviction, that we even need Him to be able to make the right one.

**“Forever O Lord, give us a desire for Your eternal and settled Word. We know it is Your plan of blessing for us.”**

