

WEEKLY ENCOURAGEMENT

from Johnny Hunt

PRAYING WITH THE END IN MIND

PART TWO

Scripture: Psalm 119:33-40

I. INTRO

- This passage contains several petitions united with the use of imperatives. The overarching theme is a new beginning. In this Psalm, the Psalmist truly desires and covets a “good ending.”
- These are principles we can pray regardless of what the issue might be.

II. PRAYER FOR DIRECTION | VERSE 35

- The Psalmist’s paradox: *Why ask the Lord to make you do what you delight in?* **ANSWER:** Because there is a war between the flesh and the Spirit.
- The Psalmist finds himself in a Romans chapter 7 moment.
- **Galatians 5:17: “For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”**
- **Note this truth:**
 - Psalm 37:4-5:**
“Delight yourself also in the LORD,
And He shall give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the LORD,
Trust also in Him,
And He shall bring it to pass.”
- Junior Hill: **“Never let your desires become more important than your delight.”**
- Don’t be more interested in the hand of God than in the face of God.
- **Psalm 37:23: “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD, And He delights in his way.”**
- God’s grace not only empowers us to accomplish His plan, but it is also sufficient to cause us to *will* to do His will.
- **Philippians 2:13, “for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.”**
- The Lord can literally change our **“want to.”**
- **Path**—is a way that generally has come into being from constant use, not being blazed through the brush; trodden. A groove cut in the ground.

III. PRAYER FOR INCLINATION | VERSE 36

- Establish a pattern for my life—a habit.
- Give me predictable patterns. The threat of the heart is always a real possibility because our hearts are deceitfully wicked. We can’t trust our hearts nor follow our hearts.
- **Covetousness** is the desire for things rather than for God. **Ephesians 5:5** and **Colossians 3:5** labels covetousness as idolatry.
- Don’t be known as a taker, but be known as a giver.
- The Psalmist so desires a greater passion for studying and obeying his Bible.

IV. PRAYER FOR ATTENTION | VERSE 37

- My attention needs to be focused on Your Word. The Psalmist wanted inner strength to keep his eyes on the Lord.
- Sinful things have a great attraction for us. How often we find ourselves gazing with ever-growing desire for something suggestive, something sensual, something sinful.
- The Psalmist acknowledged that he needed all the new life he possessed to turn his eyes from beholding the vanities Satan would put before them.
- He acknowledges his reliance on the Lord to turn him through His strength.