



Love for the Word = Faith and Power

Here we are at week seven, still focused on loving the Word. We will continue this focus through verse 104. So, how are you coming on your memorizing? While it's great to be on target with our pacing guide and getting each word just right, the main goal is allowing this scripture to find a home in your heart, mind, and life... loving God's Word in this way can literally give us power to live out our faith. Let's see how verses 101-102 show that to be true.

***“I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Thy Word.
I have not turned aside from Thine ordinances, for Thy, Thyself has taught me.”***
Psalm 119:101-102 (NASV)

Can loving the Word really give us power for living out our faith? Absolutely! As we set our lives up alongside the Word, it doesn't take much to see that we all fall short of God's standards in various ways. We need power! The Bible tells us that we all struggle with our flesh, because our flesh wants to do its own thing. (Galatians 5:17) This word “restraint” seen in verse 101 is not common in our culture... indulgence would be more likely familiar to most. In verse 101 the writer says, “I have restrained my feet from every evil way...” It is interesting that he says, “I have.” Notice he doesn't say, “I want to” or “I hope to” or “I am planning to.” He has actually done it. We can often be well-meaning in living out our faith but not actually follow through. I believe if we look closely here we can see the difference. Love is a powerful thing. It can cause us to do things we wouldn't otherwise do. When we love the Word, it yields a power in our lives to actually practice restraint when needed, to line ourselves up with God's precepts. We love what He says so this love gives us the power to do what He says. Without this love for the Word, we strive out of duty or obligation and more often than not, eventually duty and obligation give way to indulgence and lining our lives up with our own desires. Loving God's Word is the power for restraint.

A love for God's Word is also the power for action. God's Word is full of so many things...in verses 97-100 we saw the depth of wisdom, insight, and understanding available in the Word. We just discussed the precepts there that call us to restraint. The Word also calls us to action. Loving the Word will give me power to act upon the Word and actually do what it says... Verse 102 says,

“I have not turned aside from Thine ordinances, for Thy, Thyself has taught me.”

I love the fact that this writer shares how he received the Word... he received it because God Himself taught him. It's a personal thing... there again, when you love someone your heart longs to please. The things they love, you love, and because of that love, you will go the distance to make sure those things are a part of your life, too. Over the years I have prayed, “Lord, help me to love what you love and hate what you hate.” As He has answered that prayer I have set up specific spiritual disciplines knowing God has a heart for these things. However there are constant distractions that could cause me to turn aside from them. I have found that trying harder doesn't help me to stay the course, loving His Word and learning it from Him has given me the power to stay focused on His ordinances and not turn aside. There again, it's a love thing, I truly believe that!

So how is the love thing going in your life? God is so good; He can give us a love for His Word if we don't have it. If we want to live our Christian lives with faith and power, we need a love for God's Word!

“Forever O Lord, we need to love Your Word so we can have faith and power to live victoriously in the life you have given us!”