

TEACH ME YOUR WAY

"Teach me Your way, O Lord, and lead me in a level path because of my foes... I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; yes, wait for the Lord." (Psalm 27:11–14)

At the heart of David's prayer is a simple but weighty request: "Teach me Your way." David is going beyond beholding or gazing upon the Lord. He is no longer content merely to admire the beauty of God from a distance. He longs for that beauty to shape the course of his life and is actively seeking it. His worship naturally leads to obedience. He desires not only to know God but to walk in His ways.

The order is important. If we pursue obedience without first delighting in the beauty and character of the Lord, our faith easily degenerates into cold legalism. The Pharisees knew God's commands but had lost sight of God's glory. Genuine obedience flows from worship. It is sustained not by duty alone but by delight in the One we love. We first behold His beauty, and then we inquire after His will. Worship produces obedience, and adoration fuels faithful living. Therefore, we must fix our eyes upon Jesus.

Blind Bartimaeus beautifully illustrates this progression (Mark 10:46–52). Knowing Jesus would pass through Jericho, Bartimaeus positioned himself along the roadside. He had heard about Jesus' power and mercy, and that knowledge gave rise to hope. When the opportunity came, he refused to remain silent. Though the crowd tried to silence him, he cried out all the more, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" His faith moved him from expectation to earnest pursuit. He placed himself where he knew Christ would be found and then called upon Him with confidence.

The same principle applies to us. Rather than searching for hidden formulas for spiritual success or waiting for extraordinary experiences, we should faithfully place ourselves where God has promised to meet His people. We seek Him through the ordinary means of grace. We meditate on His Word. We pray continually. We gather regularly with God's people for worship. We receive biblical instruction, submit to faithful spiritual leadership, and participate in baptism and the Lord's Supper with reverence and gratitude. These are the well-worn paths where God strengthens the faith of His children.

Seeking God's way also requires a life of practical obedience. We choose simplicity over materialism, purity over impurity, forgiveness over bitterness, diligence over idleness, and God's will over our own ambitions. We deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Him (Mark 8:34). As Samuel reminded Saul, "To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams" (1 Samuel 15:22). God is not impressed by outward religious activity that lacks a submissive heart. He delights in those who trust Him fully and obey Him.¹⁰¹

David concludes this section of Psalm 27 with a call to patient confidence: "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage." God's guidance is often revealed as we faithfully walk in obedience and patiently wait upon Him. Those who delight in His beauty, seek His will, and trust His timing will discover, as David did, "the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."

¹⁰¹Principles coming from Radical Discipleship, by Hensworth WC Jonas, 106-107.

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