

DAY EIGHT

“NIGHT REFLECTIONS”

PSALM 119:57-64

Perhaps one of the best times to spend in deep reflection is during the hours of greatest solitude and quiet. It is at those solemn moments when deep can call unto deep, and perhaps if you are blessed, you will hear the still, quiet voice of the Spirit. Whether you are a morning person or a night person, if you are seeking, you can find the time to get on your face.

Take another moment and read His words. Let your heart wonder, and you might see your silent watch bring forth His thoughts:

PSALM 67:1-7

For the choir director; with stringed instruments. A Psalm. A Song. God be gracious to us and bless us, *and* cause His face to shine upon us—Selah. That Your way may be known on the earth, Your salvation among all nations. Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. Let the nations be glad and sing for joy; for You will judge the peoples with uprightness and guide the nations on the earth. Selah. Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You. The earth has yielded its produce; God, our God, blesses us. God blesses us, that all the ends of the earth may fear Him.

PSALM 119:57-64

Heth. The LORD is my portion; I have promised to keep Your words. I sought Your favor with all *my* heart; be gracious to me according to Your word. I considered my ways and turned my feet to Your testimonies. I hastened and did not delay to keep Your commandments. The cords of the wicked have encircled me, *but* I have not forgotten Your law. At midnight I shall rise to give thanks to You because of Your righteous ordinances. I am a companion of all those who fear You, and of those who keep Your precepts. The earth is full of Your lovingkindness, O LORD; teach me Your statutes.

One thing that you discover when you begin to dig deeper into the Word of God on a consistent basis, as prompted by disciplines such as Counting of the Omer, is the humbling reality that the more you study and examine, the more you realize *how little you really do know*. The notion of finite creatures attempting to understand their infinite Creator is, in

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and of itself, a clear indication that we will never plumb all the depths of knowledge as we seek to know Him (Ephesians 3:17-19). However, as Believers, we have resident in our hearts the very Holy Spirit of the Most High, who desires to teach us all things. Yeshua promised His Disciples,

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you” (John 14:26).

As we relinquish our wills to the indwelling Holy Spirit, God is faithful to reveal more and more about Himself to us. This, in turn, should enhance both our love for Him and a desire to be His obedient servants during our lives here on Earth. Spending more and more time reflecting on the various Psalm selections during this Counting of the Omer routine, the Ruach HaKodesh has been gently instructing me on a number of levels. I have found that many of the treasures, which have been buried in my heart over the years, are actually being connected in some new and unique ways. Recognizing those puzzle pieces coming into alignment has been very exciting to witness and receive. He is indeed, as James the Just calls Him, the Father of Lights:

“Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow” (James 1:17).

When I finished yesterday’s Psalm selection (Psalm 119:49-56), I was particularly struck by one verse that I meditated upon for the remainder of the day. I was impacted with remembering the name of the Lord in the night:

“O LORD, I remember **Your name in the night**, and keep Your law” (Psalm 119:55).

Reflecting on this specific verse from yesterday’s selection, I decided that I would read ahead to today’s Psalm selection (Psalm 119:57-64) before going to sleep, and then read it again in the morning. As I have been making the concerted effort to Count the Omer, my little study has become such a blessing to me that I have consistently thought that there must be more I can be learning about my Heavenly Father and His ways. I have certainly not been disappointed!

Considering the eighth section of Psalm 119, I was curious once again about the acrostic pattern of this Psalm and how its author used the letters of the Hebrew *alef-bet* to make memorizing its sayings easier. Now that the focus for the eighth section is on the letter *chet* (ח), I found myself naturally being introduced to some Hebrew words that began with the let *chet*.

Various words have been added to my growing Hebrew vocabulary with greater meaning by me Counting the Omer. In examining terms that involved the eighth letter, I had to start considering the depths of the whole of Psalm 119. As you can imagine, what had started out a mere eight days ago to be simply an encouragement to others to consider Counting the Omer, has now become such a great blessing to me. One significant word that stood out among those I examined, which started with *chet*, was the verb *chashav* (חָשַׁב), meaning to “think, account” (*BDB*),¹ appearing in Psalm 119:59:

“I **considered** [*chashav*] my ways and turned my feet to Your testimonies [*eidotekha*, עֵדוּתֶיךָ].”

It is undeniably important that every follower of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob be concerned with His testimonies—and as the Psalmist further describes—“Even when the

¹ *BDB*, 362.

cords of the wicked close around me, I don't forget your *Torah*" (Psalm 119:61, CJB). Only by heeding the instruction of God's Law, and the remainder of His Word, can any of us be truly informed as to how He expects us to live properly, and respond to crises when they come. Of course, a life of faith is not one that rigidly follows God's commandments, *but also has a vibrant and active relationship with Him.*

Various gifts from the Father of Lights surely continue to fall from Him above! On what is today a time of relative quietness for me, He has faithfully filled me with more fervency to seek Him even more as the Counting of the Omer continues. I am humbled to know that I am just beginning to scratch the surface of understanding Him.

It is a great joy to obey His commands! The Psalmist concludes his thoughts, and I look forward to tomorrow:

"The earth is full of Your lovingkindness, O LORD; teach me Your statutes" (Psalm 119:64).

The world is indeed full of God's lovingkindness or *chesed* (חֶסֶד)—yet another word that begins with the letter *chet*! When I consider the magnanimity of God's lovingkindness toward me and toward all people, I am astounded. His instructions and commandments are designed to maximize the blessing potential of His people as a means of His grace.

We still have forty-two days to count until *Shavuot*. At this point, it is difficult to imagine what more gifts the days of obedience and nights of reflection will bring!