

A Line Through the Dirt
Psalm 119:30-40

Psalm 119 reflects a "line in the dirt" moment. The psalmist knows that the life of faith begins with a resolute decision to step across the line drawn by God's Word, paired with an absolute reliance on His grace to keep us across that line.

Psalm 119:30-40 reflects the psalmist's desire to do more than know the Word of God or praise it, but to choose to believe it's truth and to put it into practice in his life. He resolves to make what Soren Kierkegaard called "The Leap." We always have limited facts. At some point we have to decide, to choose, to leap.

The psalmist didn't wait until he could see the end of the path. He stepped across the line first, knowing that the blessing and joy of the path laid out by God's Word are only revealed to those who resolve to walk it.

Jesus invited some of His earliest disciples to follow Him without a full explanation of His mission or ministry, but with this simple statement: "Come and see." They chose. The disciples model for us what our discipleship should look like.

The choice to follow God's path for your life must come with humility. We should be under no illusion that we are so innately spiritual and perfectly self-controlled that we can, by the force of our will, hold fast to the Lord's teachings and "run in the path that He has set out." So, the psalmist pleads with God to reorient, to adjust, his heart, eyes, mind, and affections from the inside out. This needs to be our prayer and stance too.

So, obeying God's word is a two-step process. First, it requires an initial, irrevocable choice to live by His Word. Second, we invite God to tune us—to adjust us daily be more like Jesus.

Today a sword, the sword of the Spirit, God's word has drawn a line: Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. Every day there is another line drawn in the sand by God's Word: Trust and obey.