

“If you do this, this way, then this will happen, because that’s how it has been designed to function.” What I’ve just described is a *piqqud*. Here’s what it looks like in Hebrew – פִּקְּוּד. It’s a “precept”. It’s not actually spoken as a “promise”, but because God’s Word is faithful and true it can be considered as one by you! So we can consider this as a follow-up, a way to view, “the promises”. Where you find a *piqqud* it’s like a

promise too!

I’ve wrestled with this word for years, even though, as we pointed out yesterday, it’s only used 24 times, only in The Psalms, and 21 of those times it’s in the 119th Psalm. Apparently King David liked this word, and so do I!

So what’s so intriguing about this word that we would spend time on a Sunday morning focused on it? Perhaps the easiest way to answer that question is to contrast it with several other words that we’re more familiar with, which we did a little bit yesterday.

The 119th Psalm is the only place where you find, *hog*, a statute, *mitsvah*, a commandment, *mispat*, an ordinance, and *piqqud*. A statute is “do this”. A commandment is “pursue this”, like an objective. An ordinance is “observe this”, acting it out, not just looking at it. A precept is different, it’s more like information, it’s telling you the way that things are or how they are designed to function. That’s why they are akin to “promises”, because if you learn them and walk in them you get the results! So let’s look at the verse that started all this...

“Through Your precepts I gain understanding, therefore I hate every false way.”
Ps 119:104

That’s powerful! Through seeing how things are designed to function, seeing things as they actually are, you begin to understand, gain insight into life and the world around you, so that you act and respond appropriately. That’s another way of saying the “words of truth”, the *logos aletheia*, the “design of reality”. Through coming to know God’s precepts you see things as they really are and why they function in particular ways, like faith itself. Why does it take faith to please God? Why do we walk by faith and not by sight? How is it that we live out from faith? Because this is the way that things are designed to operate! It’s a foundational part of God’s precepts. **“Through Your precepts I gain understanding!”** That’s where we began yesterday.

“If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say this to the mountain, ‘Move from here to there!’, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you!” (Mt 17:20) This is a precept. Jesus is telling you how things are, how they are designed to work. If you follow the precept you get the result, which is why it’s like a promise. It’s simply true! No matter how things appear, nothing is impossible to you. As you gain understanding of the precept, faith will be formed in you!

Also, we didn’t spend much time on this, and we’re almost out of space, but let’s talk about the “false way”. The word is *sheqer*, it’s a deception or falsehood. The false way is any way that tells you that it won’t work God’s way, OK? That’s why spending the time listening to and reading what God has to say is so very important, it’s how you come to know The Way.

Jesus gave Himself, body and blood, to bring about a New Covenant so that you can lay hold, by faith, to His Life. He was there in the beginning, He knows what is true, and He’s given Himself and His Spirit so that you can come to know them too! Agree with David, **“Open my eyes that I may behold wondrous things out from Your Word!”** (Ps 119:18)

Love never fails!

