

# Lord, Teach Me Your Ways

## Key Verse:

<sup>11</sup> Thus the LORD used to speak to Moses face to face, just as a man speaks to his friend. When Moses returned to the camp, his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, would not depart from the tent.

<sup>12</sup> Then Moses said to the LORD, "See, You say to me, 'Bring up this people!' But You Yourself have not let me know whom You will send with me. Moreover, You have said, 'I have known you by name, and you have also found favor in My sight.'

<sup>13</sup> "Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, let me know Your ways that I may know You, so that I may find favor in Your sight. Consider too, that this nation is Your people." Exodus 33:11-13 (NASB)

## Today's Portion for the Journey

The LORD spoke to Moses face to face, just as a man would speak with His friend. In this place of friendship, Moses prayed to the LORD, acknowledging he has known Him by name and found favor in God's sight. But Moses asked for something more! He asked that if he had found favor with the LORD, that God would show him His ways. If you were able to stand face to face with the LORD and speak to Him as you would speak to a friend, is this what you would ask Him? Why Moses request to know God's ways when he already knew the LORD so well?

**Definition:** The Hebrew word for "ways" used in this passage is 'derek' (Strong's #1870) this passage refers to the path worn by constant walking, a journey or mission. The word can refer to the actions or behaviors of men or the path of the LORD God. The word is used over 150x in OT. It is used to describe a road, distance, journey, also the course or direction, path, pathway, practice, manner, habits, course of life, and moral character. God's ways are the frequent subject of this word. The Hebrew root for this word, #1869 has to do with setting a foot to a territory, treading, and is more forceful than merely walking. It speaks of dominions, thrones of dominion or rule and treading often referred to treading in authority. Joshua was promised that every place that his foot would tread, God had given it to him.

Moses clearly understood that knowing God's way would help him to know the LORD in a deeper way. The Hebrew word for "know" used in this passage is "yada" means to be acquainted, clearly comprehend, understand, familiar friend, knowledge, intimate friendship. It speaks of an experiential knowledge of God that does not come from knowing facts or gaining understanding from a book but from personal experience.

*The Amplified Version captures much of the meaning of this definition. "And the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. ... You said, I know you by name and you have also found favor in My sight. Now therefore, I pray You, if I have found favor in Your sight, show me now Your way, that I may know You **progressively become more deeply and intimately***

*acquainted with You, perceiving and recognizing and understanding more strongly and clearly] and that I may find favor in Your sight....” Ex 33:11-13 AMPLIFIED BIBLE)*

Psalm 103 reveals that God answered Moses' prayer to know His ways! "The LORD performs righteous deeds And judgments for all who are oppressed. He made known His ways to Moses, His acts to the sons of Israel. The LORD is compassionate and gracious, Slow to anger and abounding in lovingkindness." Psalm 103:6-8 (NASB)

The word for "acts" is "alilah' (Strong's #5949) and it means simply one's actions, doings or deeds. It is often linked with the concept of malicious intent. So Israel saw what God did but they had no understanding of why or His heart behind his actions. When we do not understand God's ways, we are likely to misconstrue why He is acting as He does. For example, to see His discipline in a way that makes Him appear mean or vindictive. Moses knew God's ways and therefore, he was given an understanding of His heart. When God showed him His ways, he became intimately acquainted with His character, personality, motives, passions and purposes. Israel saw God's actions, but Moses understood His motives and the love behind His actions.

Thus says the LORD, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the LORD who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things," declares the LORD." Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NASB)

God sent His Son to show us the way of life. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no man comes to the Father except by Me." John 14:6 Jesus called us to take up our cross and follow Him. He will lead us in the way everlasting! Look at the following New Testament passages that refer to the way: Matt. 3:3; 7:14; Mark 12:14; Luke 1:79; Luke 3:4

"Righteousness will go before Him,  
and will make His footsteps into our pathway  
(or set us in the way of His footsteps." Ps. 85:13 (KJV)

### *Digging Deeper in the Word:*

Look up these additional Scriptures related to God's ways. Beside each verse write down what this verse teaches you about our need to know God's ways. How do we learn His ways? Also note how far our own ways are from His ways!

Gen 6:12

Job 26:14

Ps. 1:1

Ps. 25:1-5

Ps. 27:11

Ps. 51:10-13

Ps. 67:2

Ps. 77:13

Ps. 86:11

Ps. 101:2,6  
Ps. 119:33-40  
Ps. 138:5  
Isa. 53:6  
Isa. 55:7-9

**USING A STRONG'S CONCORDANCE:** To really plumb the depths of this verse, we need to know what the key words meant in the Hebrew language when Moses used it. For that, one of the simplest tools to use is the Strong's Concordance. When Strong put together his concordance for the Bible, he wrote down every word in the Bible and its location. Then he assigned a number to each word that links it to a dictionary in the back of the concordance. This dictionary provides the original word used in the Hebrew (Old Testament) or Greek (New Testament) and the meaning of that word. Make sure that the Strong's Concordance you are using is done for the same version you are using. The English words may vary from one translation to another.

Use the attached "The Way of the LORD Worksheet" to look at additional verses that use the Hebrew word "derek" translated by many different names in our English translations of the Bible. This is not a complete list of the places where the word uses "derek" but a selection of verses that represent the usage of the word. It may be helpful to look at the verse in your Bible so you can see the context in which it was written.

Note the following information about the ways of God and man:

- Mark the verses that refer to the ways of the LORD and note what you can learn about His ways.
- Note verses that are prayers or commandments.
- Note God's promises for those who follow His ways.
- Note what the Word says about the ways of the wicked.

*What is the Lord speaking to your heart?*

***Responding to the Lord:*** Did you notice that most of the verses we have studied today are actually prayers? Use these prayers to formulate a prayer of your own by paraphrasing these verses into your own words.

Lord, I want to know You! My heart is desperate for You! I want to walk with You and speak with You face to face. Give me understanding of Your heart. To have intimate friendship with You is my greatest desire! Teach me Your Ways so that I can know Your heart! I long for Your presence to lead me, as You led Moses in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night! I desire that You would be the light of my pathway. I choose to follow You on the narrow way that leads to life! I understand this is the way of the cross and I choose to take up my cross and walk in Your footsteps. I desire to forsake my ways of the flesh and pray You will teach me Your ways which are full of light and truth! You are the Way, the Truth and the Life!

In Jesus precious name, Amen