

God's Word: A Lamp and a Light

BY PASTOR RICK NERUD



Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

This verse contains two significant truths. The first truth: God's Word is a lamp to our feet. The word **lamp** is often used in the Old Testament for a candle, and, like a candle, God's Word enables us to see where we are in the present.

When we encounter trials or major decisions, we sometimes feel like we are groping in the dark. We may wonder why we're going through things or feel bewildered by our circumstances.

God has given us His Word, however, to be the candle that gives enough light to guide us in the midst of our circumstances. We realize the truth in that situation; for example, that God is with us no matter what we happen to be going through. So we see that the Lord's Word illuminates and makes our present situation clear.

The second part of Psalm 119:105 tells us that God's Word is a light to our path. **Light** in this passage is the Hebrew word for daylight.

As the greatly anticipated morning light, God's Word enables us to see the path in front of us.

The Word is not only the candlelight that meets our immediate need; it is also the daylight that illuminates our future path. With it, we can move forward in confidence and boldness because we have understanding and wisdom regarding what lies ahead.

I experienced this twofold ministry of the Word a little over 12 years ago when I was the assistant pastor of CC St. George, UT. The senior pastor told me one day that he sensed the Lord leading him into another ministry, and he asked me to consider becoming pastor of the church.

I began seeking the Lord for guidance through prayer and in my daily Scripture reading. I soon came across Proverbs 30:2-3, which says, ***Surely I am more stupid than any man, and do not have the understanding of a man. I neither learned wisdom nor have knowledge of the Holy One.***

Immediately I thought, *I can relate!* I had struggled with feeling that I was not as smart as many men regarding the Lord and spiritual things, and I believed that I wasn't competent to be a pastor. I felt I didn't have the understanding necessary; I had neither learned wisdom nor had knowledge of the Holy One.

After all, I had not been to Bible college or seminary, and I couldn't have explained the difference between hermeneutics and homiletics if my life depended on it.

However, the Lord spoke to my heart when I continued on to verse 4: ***Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son's name, if you know?***

I thought, *Hey, here's something I do know—His name is Jesus!* The next verses say,

Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar. Proverbs 30:5-6

The entire passage suddenly began to come together in my mind: I realized that every word of God was pure and that I was not to add to His words. In that sense, it was good for me to be "stupid and without

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knowledge;" I was a clean slate for the Lord to use. I also realized that if I trusted in His Word alone—not in my knowledge, wisdom, or words—then all of the power would be from Him and for Him.

That was more than 12 years ago, and God's Word has been a lamp to my feet and a light to my path every day since.

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