

## Psalm 119:33-40<sup>iii</sup>

<sup>33</sup>Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, **(Help me to know, O teacher, the path to follow)**<sup>iv\*</sup>

and I shall keep it to the end **(lead the way and I will come)**.

<sup>34</sup>Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law **(In your power to calm the storms of adversity); \***

I shall keep it with all my heart **(show me the power of your forgiving love)**.

<sup>35</sup>Make me go in the path of your commandments **(O that I might learn to bless others selflessly), \***

for that is my desire **(to be a silent benediction)!**

<sup>36</sup>Incline my heart to your decrees **(Incline my heart to Love Consciousness), \***  
and not to unjust gain **(and not to gain)**.

<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless **(Turn my eyes from the worlds temptations); \***

give me life in your ways **(and birth me into new Life)**.

<sup>38</sup>Fulfill your promise to your servant, **(Let me enter the realm where) \***

which you make to those who fear you **(the aspirations of my soul may become manifest)**.

<sup>39</sup>Turn away the reproach which I dread, **(Cloth me with compassion that) \***

because your judgments are good **(I may answer the cries of those in need)**.

<sup>40</sup>Behold, I long for your commandments; **(Do you see how I long to serve,) \***

in your righteousness preserve my life. **(to co-create with you? In your mercy, hear my prayer.)**

---

### <sup>iii</sup> About the Psalm: Psalm 119:33-40

In this reading, taken from the longest psalm in the Bible, the psalmist asks God to help understand and observe the commands of Torah (instruction) and so follow the path of goodness and justice. This requires a complete reorientation of ideas, attitudes, values and the direction that one is going in order to achieve a whole new life.

<sup>iv</sup> Parenthetical include interpretations from Nan C Merrill's "Psalms for Praying: An invitation to Wholeness."