



DAY 21



PRONE TO WANDER

**With all my heart I have sought You;
Do not let me wander from Your commandments.
Psalm 119:10**

There is a tension in this verse. It is a tension between our best-laid plans and our inevitable failures. We declare our intention to pray and seek God, only to find ourselves, perhaps moments later, distracted and unfocused. As one of my favorite hymns puts it, “prone to wander, Lord, I feel it.” The psalmist urges us to seek God with all of our heart. For the Jews, this includes our thoughts, desires, intentions, attitudes, and emotions. All of these things ought to be directed toward God when we approach Him, whether in prayer, study, or worship.

But the tension goes deeper. There are two ways that we can wander: we can wander on our way to God, or we can wander on our way from God. The psalmist recognizes that even if we succeed in seeking God with our whole heart, we can still fail to do what He says. We must conduct our search with the expectation that God will answer and that He will ask us to do something specific. Once we have found God and paused long enough to listen to Him, He will likely say, “Now go and love your neighbor” or “repent.” If, in prayer, the Holy Spirit convicts you of a particular sin, you should not speed up your prayer or make

excuses or reach for your phone. Instead, stop then and there and repent. Do not let those little distractions get in the way of obeying the Lord's commandments.

1. What aspect of your heart (thoughts, desires, attitudes, etc.) do you need to reorient and refocus toward God?
2. What things distract you from seeking God and doing what He tells you to do?

God, grant me the focus to seek you with my whole heart, the patience to hear your voice, and the diligence to carry out your commands. Deliver me from distractions, and keep my feet from wandering off the path you have set for me. Through the power and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

– ALEX MARKOS –

