

WANT GOD?

A Prayer for Illumination:

“We confess you to be the the creator of heaven and earth;

We are dazzled by your power;

We are encircled by your mercy.

And now we come with this strange text,

all its jots and tittles,

all its points and pauses,

Imagining that your splendour is given us...

in the detail and nuance of this text.

How you inhabit this text,

How you disclose your hidden self

through open and closed syllables...

we do not know or comprehend.

We ask for patience, alertness, discernment, and freedom

as we ... move from sound to sound.

We give thanks that you have come fleshed in text,

so powerfully texted are you.

We give thanks in the name of Jesus,

deeply texted as he was. Amen.”

- Walter Brueggemann “How you inhabit this text” (*Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*, p.73)

- 1* Happy are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord.
- 2* Happy are those who keep his decrees,
who seek him with their whole heart,
 - 3* who also do no wrong,
but walk in his ways.
- 4* You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.
- 5* O that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!
- 6* Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.
- 7* I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous ordinances.
 - 8* I will observe your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.

9 How can young people keep their way pure?

By guarding it according to your word.

10 With my whole heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your commandments.

11 I treasure your word in my heart,
so that I may not sin against you.

12 Blessed are you, O Lord;
teach me your statutes.

13 With my lips I declare
all the ordinances of your mouth.

14 I delight in the way of your decrees
as much as in all riches.

15 I will meditate on your precepts,
and fix my eyes on your ways.

16 I will delight in your statutes;

I will not forget your word. - Psalm 119:1-16, NRSV

1 Happy are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord.

2 Happy are those who keep his decrees,
who seek him with their whole heart,

3 who also do no wrong,
but walk in his ways.

10 With my whole heart I seek you;
do not let me stray from your commandments.

11 I treasure your word in my heart,
so that I may not sin against you.

35 Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for I delight in it.

45 I shall walk at liberty,
for I have sought your precepts. (Ps. 119, NRSV)