

***Your Word and Your Ways, O Lord...***

**Willing & Wayward**

Psalm 119:161-176

*Willing & Wayward (Psalm 119:161-176)*

## **You, O Lord... Your Word and Your Ways**

- You satisfy and cleanse
- You counsel and encourage me
- You give understanding and determination
- You comfort me and make me know you're mine
- You are altogether good and unfailingly loving
- You give hope and endure forever
- You are my love and my light
- I am single-minded and dependent on you
- Speak of you, so I respond
- Show you are near – so free me, O Lord

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## **Final stanzas: Us and Our ways**

**When I see myself in the mirror of God's Word I discover a disturbing contradiction:**

**A willingness to obey**

**A waywardness of heart**

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## **Willing Obedience** (167-168)

– **The believer's pattern of life**

- **Not just 'I have obeyed' but 'I do obey'**

*Willing & Wayward* (Psalm 119:161-176)

## **Willing Obedience** (167-168)

- **The believer's pattern of life**
- **Obedient submission:  
faith's new and 'unnatural' response**
  - **Obedience: since the Garden, neither our favorite subject nor our natural response!**
  - **A relationship with God through faith in Christ changes that:**
    - **'born again' (John 3; I Peter 1), 'alive' (Rom 6 etc.) 'new creatures (II Cor 5)**
    - **Ezekiel 36:25-27 – a heart transplant resulting in obedience**

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## **Willing Obedience** (167-168)

- **The believer's pattern of life**
- **Obedient submission:  
faith's new and 'unnatural' response**
- **Faith's inseparable 'Siamese Twin'**
  - **Obedience separated from faith is not true obedience, and faith separated from obedience is not true faith**
  - **Isaiah 29:13; Luke 6:46; James 1:17**
  - **We are saved by faith alone, but saving faith is never alone**

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**Willing Obedience (167-168)**

- The believer's pattern of life
- Obedient submission:  
faith's new and 'unnatural' response
- Faith's inseparable 'Siamese Twin'
- A willingly obedient heart
  - obedience that is not forced or compelled against our will, but flowing forth from a changed and willing heart!
  - I Chronicles 28,29
  - Exodus 35,36

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**Willing Obedience** (167-168)

**Wayward Sheep** (176)

– **An unflattering comparison**

– **A sad & sobering reality**

- **it must drive us to our knees in confession and cause us to come humbly before the throne of grace.**

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**Willing Obedience (167-168)**

**Wayward Sheep (176)**

– **An unflattering comparison**

– **A sad & sobering reality**

- *O to grace how great a debtor  
daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let Thy goodness, like a fetter  
Bind my wandering heart to Thee  
**Prone to wander, Lord I feel it  
Prone to leave the God I love  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it  
Seal it for they courts above.***

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## **Questions for the Willing & Wayward**

- **Is obedience the pattern of your life?  
Is your deepest desire to do God's will?**
- **Is your obedience willing?**
- **When was the last time you confessed  
your sins, honestly and truly?**

*Prone to wander, Lord I feel it,  
Prone to leave the God I love...*