

# CHANUKAH CHALLENGE 2015

## Cleansing and Re-dedicating Through Psalm 119

Shalom to all,

We are very excited to announce the latest MTOI Challenge. This one will cover the 22 days from November 23<sup>rd</sup> through the end of Chanukah on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The focus of the Chanukah season is the cleansing and re-dedication of the Temple that took place during the time of the Maccabees. If we connect this to 1 Cor 6:19-20, which teaches us that we are the temple of the Ruach HaKodesh, I believe we should use this time to cleanse and re-dedicate ourselves. The vehicle we will be using for doing this is Psalm 119. Psalm 119 has 176 verses broken up into 22 stanzas, one for each of the 22 letters of the Aleph-Bet. Each stanza has 8 verses. Here is how the Challenge works:

- Every day in the morning, for the 22 days of the Challenge you will read a stanza of 8 verses.
- As you read, ask yourself how each of the verses could be applied to you in your cleansing and re-dedication.
- Meditate on, and apply these things throughout the day.
- Then at the end of the day read the verses again and review your experience from the day.
- Optional: Submit your insights about your experience on the MTOI Facebook Group page

Below is the second stanza and an example of some of what you could meditate on from them:

9 How would a young man cleanse his path. To guard it according to Your word?  
10 I have sought You with all my heart; Let me not stray from Your commands!  
11 I have treasured up Your word in my heart, That I might not sin against You.  
12 Blessed are You, O יהוה! Teach me Your laws.  
13 With my lips I have recounted All the right-rulings of Your mouth.  
14 I have rejoiced in the way of Your witnesses, As over all riches.  
15 I meditate on Your orders, And regard Your ways.  
16 I delight myself in Your laws; I do not forget Your word.

- How would I cleanse MY path, to guard it according to the Word?
- Am I seeking Him with ALL my heart
- Am I straying from His commands?
- Have I treasured up His Word in my heart, so that I don't sin against Him?
- Am I blessing יהוה as I ask Him to teach me His laws?
- Do I recount ALL His right –rulings with my mouth?
- Have I rejoiced in the way of His witnesses, as over riches?
- Do I meditate on His orders and regard His ways?
- Do I delight myself in His laws...do I forget His Word?

I pray that this Challenge is a blessing and helps you to cleanse and re-dedicate yourself to your Creator.



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