

# Psalms 119:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved.

## Analysis

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**And I will delight myself in thy commandments** (וְאֶשְׂתַּעֲשֶׂע בְּמִצְוֹתֶיךָ)—Sha'a (to delight oneself, take exquisite pleasure) describes luxuriating enjoyment. The Hitpael form emphasizes intensive, reflexive action—the psalmist will thoroughly delight himself in God's mitzvot (commandments). This isn't grim duty but joyful pleasure, echoing Psalm 1:2's meditation that delights. **Which I have loved** (אֲשֶׁר אֶהְבֵּתִי)—Ahav (to love) grounds future delight in present affection. The relative clause 'which I have loved' shows this isn't manufactured emotion but authentic, established love for God's commands.

The progression climaxes beautifully: bold testimony before kings (v.46) flows from delighting in commandments. Fearless witness isn't produced by grinding obligation but overflowing joy. Those who genuinely delight in God's words can't help but speak them, even to hostile audiences. This is the psychology of evangelism: love for Christ and His truth naturally produces testimony. Jesus promised 'out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks' (Matthew 12:34)—hearts delighting in God's commandments produce mouths testifying fearlessly.

## Historical Context

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Hebrew wisdom literature connects delight in God's law with prosperity and stability (Psalm 1). The psalmist writes from a theology where obeying Torah isn't burden but privilege and pleasure—a radical contrast to Greek philosophy's

dichotomy between duty and pleasure. For the regenerate, God's commandments become the source of greatest joy.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

## Study Questions

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1. Do you genuinely delight in God's commandments, or do you view obedience as duty you must perform rather than joy you get to experience?
2. How does loving God's commandments naturally produce bold testimony even in hostile contexts—what's the connection?
3. What would change in your witness if your primary motivation shifted from obligation to delight in God's beautiful truth?

## Interlinear Text

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וְאֶשְׂתַּעֲשֶׂה עִ

And I will delight

H8173

בְּמִצְוֹת יְיָ

myself in thy commandments

H4687

אֲשֶׁר

H834

אֶהְבֶּתִּי:

which I have loved

H157

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 119:48** (Love): My hands also will I lift up unto thy commandments, which I have loved; and I will meditate in thy statutes.

**Psalms 119:97** (Love): O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

**Psalms 119:127** (Love): Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.

**Psalms 119:16** (Word): I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

**John 4:34** (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

**Psalms 119:174** (Word): I have longed for thy salvation, O LORD; and thy law is my delight.

**Psalms 119:140** (Love): Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.

**Psalms 119:167** (Love): My soul hath kept thy testimonies; and I love them exceedingly.

**Psalms 112:1** (Word): Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

**Romans 7:22** (Word): For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: