

# Psalms 25:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

## Analysis

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**The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.**

This verse continues the theme of divine instruction, specifying who receives God's guidance: the meek. The parallel structure (guide/teach, judgment/his way) emphasizes both the recipients and the content of God's teaching.

"The meek" (anavim, עֲנָוִים) comes from anav (עָנָו), meaning humble, afflicted, lowly, gentle. This isn't weakness but strength under control—those who have been humbled by circumstances or who voluntarily humble themselves before God. Moses was called "very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth" (Numbers 12:3), yet he confronted Pharaoh and led Israel. Meekness is power submitted to God's authority.

"Will he guide" (yadarekh, יְדַרְךָ) uses darak (דָּרַךְ) in causative form—to cause to walk, to lead, to direct. God actively guides the meek person's steps, like a shepherd leading sheep or a father teaching a child to walk. This guidance is personal, ongoing, and practical—not abstract truth but specific direction for daily decisions.

"In judgment" (bamishpat, בַּמִּשְׁפָּט) means in justice, in what is right, in proper decision-making. God guides the meek in discerning right from wrong, in making just choices, in understanding proper courses of action. This encompasses both moral wisdom (knowing what is right) and practical wisdom (knowing how to apply it).

"And the meek will he teach his way" parallels and intensifies the first line. God not only guides the meek in making right decisions but teaches them His characteristic way of acting. This is the higher level—not just learning what to do in specific situations but learning to think and act like God Himself, internalizing His values and methods.

## Historical Context

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The beatitude of meekness runs throughout Scripture. Proverbs 11:2: "with the lowly is wisdom." Proverbs 15:33: "before honour is humility." Zephaniah 2:3: "Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth...seek meekness." Jesus declared: "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5), directly echoing Psalm 37:11.

Meekness was countercultural in the ancient world, which valued power, pride, and dominance. The Greek and Roman honor-shame cultures rewarded self-assertion and punished weakness. Yet biblical faith consistently elevated humility. James 4:6 quotes Proverbs 3:34: "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble."

David exemplified meekness despite his position as king and warrior. He spared Saul's life when he could have killed him (1 Samuel 24, 26). He accepted Shimei's cursing as possibly from God (2 Samuel 16:10-12). He confessed sin when confronted by Nathan (2 Samuel 12:13). His meekness wasn't absence of power but submission of power to God's authority.

The connection between meekness and teachability is crucial. Pride makes people unteachable—they trust their own wisdom and resist correction. Humility makes people teachable—they recognize their need for instruction and submit to divine guidance. Proverbs 12:15: "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise."

## Related Passages

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**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How is biblical meekness different from weakness, and why does strength under God's control make someone teachable?
2. Why does pride prevent people from receiving God's guidance while humility opens them to instruction?
3. What is the difference between God guiding us in specific decisions (judgment) and teaching us His general way of acting and thinking?
4. In what areas of life do you struggle with pride that makes you resistant to divine guidance, and how can you cultivate meekness?
5. How did Jesus perfectly embody meekness (Matthew 11:29), and how does His example encourage us to pursue humility?

## Interlinear Text

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וְיָדָרְךָ	עָנָוִים	בְּמִשְׁפָּט	וְיִלְמֶדְךָ	עָנָוִים	דֶּרֶכְךָ:
will he guide	The meek	in judgment	will he teach	The meek	his way
H1869	H6035	H4941	H3925	H6035	H1870

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 23:3** (Parallel theme): He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

**Matthew 5:5** (Parallel theme): Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

**Galatians 5:23** (Parallel theme): Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

**John 14:6** (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

**1 Peter 3:15** (Parallel theme): But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

**Psalms 149:4** (Parallel theme): For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.

**Ezekiel 36:27** (Judgment): And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

**Zephaniah 2:3** (Judgment): Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger.

**Psalms 147:6** (Parallel theme): The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground.

**Psalms 143:10** (Parallel theme): Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.