This stanza opens with a statement: “Thou art my portion, O LORD” which means that God was the preference of his life, the treasure of his life, and that he would rather have God than anything else! “Thou art my portion, O LORD” This means that God was the love of his life, the purpose of his life, the center, and the focus of his life, the goal of his life, and the satisfaction (pleasure and fulfillment) of his life. The Bible speaks of the “men of the world” who “have their portion in this life” [Psalm 17:14]. The Psalmist declared that the Lord was his “portion” [Psalm 16:5; 73:26; 142:5], implying that he was not a man of the world. In this stanza of the 119th Psalm we see the characteristics of the one who can truly say “Thou art my portion, O LORD”

1. HE HAS RESOLVE CONCERNING THE WORD OF GOD:
“I have said (declared and determined) that I would keep thy words” [verse 57]. He was resolved to always pay attention, and to take notice of the Word of God, to be mindful of it, all for the purpose of being in submission and obedience to it. ONE CANNOT HAVE GOD AS THE FOCAL POINT OF THEIR LIFE, WITHOUT HAVING HIS WORD AS THE CORNERSTONE OF THEIR LIFE!

2. HE PLEADED THE WORD OF GOD IN HIS PRAYERS:
He desired wholeheartedly the approval and blessings of God—”I intreated (begged) thy favour with my whole heart” [verse 58]. Knowing that there was nothing in him to merit or deserve the approval and blessings of God, he pleaded the promises of God’s Word—”be merciful unto me according to thy word” [verse 58]. The Word of God makes a solid foundation for our pleas unto God.

3. HE WAS WILLING TO EXAMINE HIS WAYS BY GOD’S WORD:
“I thought (reflected and pondered) on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies” [verse 59]. There was an examination of his ways (his behavior, his practices, and characteristics) using the standard of God’s Word, and then there was an alteration and transformation—”and turned my feet unto (in the direction of) thy testimonies”

4. HE WAS EAGER IN PRACTICING THE WORD OF GOD:
“I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments” [verse 60]. HE IMMEDIATELY SET OUT TO DO WHAT GOD REQUIRED! This is part of his resolve in verse 57. He did not seek excuses or reasons not to obey, but he was zealous in carrying out the commands of God. When the Lord is the center, the focus, and the goal of life, ONE DOES NOT GET STUCK BETWEEN TWO WAYS OF LIVING!
5. HE CALLED TO MIND THE WORD OF GOD:
He mentions his circumstances—"The band of the wicked (the evil, sinful, corrupt, vile, depraved, and hateful had banded together in opposition against him), have robbed me" [verse 61]. He mentions his recourse under such circumstances—"but I have not forgotten thy law" He did not fail to remember, nor did he abandon God’s Word. HIS CIRCUMSTANCES DID NOT DIVERT HIM FROM GOD’S WAYS REVEALED IN HIS WORD!

6. HE WAS RESOLVED TO GIVE THANKS FOR THE WORD OF GOD:
He possessed strong confidence in what the Word of God said, and as a result he had great appreciation for the Word, and was resolved to express such [verse 62].

7. HE DESIRED THE COMPANY OF THOSE WHO MADE THE WORD OF GOD THEIR PRACTICE:
“I am a companion of all them that fear (reverence and honor) thee, and of them that keep thy precepts” [verse 63]. Keeping the “precepts” (God’s rule to regulate behavior and thought) is a direct result of reverence to the Lord. The Psalmist desired and longed for the company and friendship of such.

8. HE DESIRES TO LEARN THE WORD OF GOD:
Thankful for, and overwhelmed at the “mercy” of God, he desires to learn more of God’s Word, which further reveals the “mercy” of God [verse 64]. Again, the Psalmist takes the place of the student, and recognizes God as the teacher, and the Word of God as the lesson being taught. HE DESIRES TO BE INDOCTRINATED IN THE WORD OF GOD!

One’s attitude and spirit toward the Word of God is a manifestation of their attitude and spirit toward God. GOD AND HIS WORD CANNOT BE SEPARATED! If God is the love and purpose of one’s life, the central focus of one’s life, the goal, the pleasure and fulfillment of one’s life, such will be manifest in attitude and spirit toward the Word of God! IF GOD IS THE CENTER OF LIFE, THEN THE WORD OF GOD WILL HAVE A CENTRAL PLACE IN LIFE!