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*“Revive me according to your word...Teach me your statutes, Make me understand the way of Your precepts...Strengthen me according to Your word...Remove from me the way of lying, and grant me Your law graciously...O Lord, do not put me to shame!”* (Psalm 119: 25-32).

This is the suppliant’s full petition for spiritual quickening. It is addressed to the Lord for it is something a poor soul in the grips of spiritual depression is powerless to do for himself. As in all our praying, this petition must be offered in faith. There must be some grounds of expectation that it shall be heard. Otherwise it will be nothing but pious vain-babbling. These grounds of expectation are prefaced with “I have”, “I cling”, “I will”. These are not coins with which the psalmist hopes to purchase favor from God, or boasts of his deservings, but simple declarations of the state of the soul, clearing any obstacle of insincerity that may hinder a hearing from God. “If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.” God knows our hearts, if our prayers are indeed in earnest, our state desperate, and our intent fixed.

*“ I have Declared my ways”*. I have taken inventory, assessed my chronic short falls, my deeds, and taken responsibility for them. They are my own. I make no excuse, but take my place as an undeserving sinner. I have confessed and come clean. Now I hereby present my needs before a merciful God.

*“You answered me!”* Amazingly, you have condescended to hear me. You have not turned a deaf ear, but have accepted my confession and received me. You will yet by my God and Savior.

*“I have chosen the way of truth”*. I am done with lying, both those lies I have spoken and those which have come to me from others. No more will I speak lies. No more will I listen to them and set the course of my life and my hope in the delusions, the fleeting vanities of this world. No more will I give heed to the seductive voice of the devil. May nothing henceforth capture my gaze, and order my course except that path marked out by the truth of Your word.

*“Your judgments have I laid before me”* I have heard your voice, “This is the way. Walk in it”. It is my earnest intent that my walk, my very steps and all my undertakings should be dictated according to your judgments.

*“I cling to your testimonies”* Enough of listening to the fanciful yarns poured out by the promoters of this world’s thrills and pleasures. Enough of the awful terrors, the worries and anxieties spewed from the pit by Satan’s legions. Up, my soul! No longer will I be dragged down by such thoughts! And though my soul should insist on cleaving to the dust, yet my gaze shall cling to the heavenly testimonies of my God.

*“I will run in the way of your commandments”*. Though my heart has lagged, been slow to follow and too quick to stray, I will no longer tolerate such hesitation and backsliding. I will make haste to give myself to obedience. This I assert, not out of confidence in my resolve, but of your faithfulness to hear the prayer of your child. You will command the melting of my soul to cease, and enlarge it, cheer it, make it robust to the magnifying of your Name.

- C. M.