

“How can a young person stay pure? By obeying your word. I have tried hard to find you— don’t let me wander from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you. Psalms 119:9-11 NLT

## lectio // Psalm 119:9-16

For sure the Psalmist had no idea that thousands of years in the future, being “pure” would be the last thing on a young person’s mind! Sure there are folks that just ache to do right, be right and even live a “clean” life. These teens are not necessarily the youth I grew up with. What does the Psalmist mean by pure? It’s meaning is from the word “clean” in a sense. When your body gets dirty, you can take a shower and clean it, purify it if you think about it like that. But what happens if your soul gets soiled? What happens if you have wallowed in a morality of mud and you just feel - dirty? Modern culture would tell you to embrace it! And, even more so, tell you to lean into that, experiencing the full depth of that “immoral” feeling until you can shed all sense of guilt or shame. Just live it until those bothersome twinges of “feeling wrong” go away. Even better, get a group of friends or activists to herald those feelings of wrong to redefine them as freedoms and rights - that will fix it! Sure, try it. Like staring at your muddy body in a mirror and declaring it clean, you can certainly convince yourself that you’re okay and the rest of the world is judging your muddiness. Oh, but you know the truth - you are actually clean and they just can’t understand your truth. Sound silly? It’s not. It is completely possible to burn our human conscience until it no longer works right. This word “pure” is really about being translucent; figuratively, to be innocent. Innocence is going back to a world of wonder, curiosity and believing in good. When the Psalmist asks the question, the expectation is that you would want innocence, simplicity and hope to return. How would someone do that. The answer, delighting in God’s decrees and not forget God’s word. God designed us, built us in love and with purpose. Don’t allow yourself to lie to your soul for so long that you burn the chance at seeing God’s truth.

## oratio

Dad,

Clean me, please wash my soul. Make me pure, innocent once again. Let your words do it’s work inside my heart, my mind and let that be the power that changes my behaviors. No one but you can see my thoughts, you can see my every motive, intention, dream and aspiration. You are the only one that can correctly judge the ideas inside of me. Humans can only see my behaviors, but you see where those behaviors started in my soul. It is there that I need to be washed and made clean.

## contemplatio

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root