

# SERMON

THE FOUNDATION OF GOD'S WORD  
IN OUR ONLINE PRESENCE

## **Introduction:**

Good morning, church! Today, we are diving into an important topic that affects every one of us in today's digitally connected world—*how we can live out our faith and be guided by God's Word in our online presence*. The digital world, with its vast reach, has become a central part of our lives. From social media to emails, blogs, and comments sections, we are constantly engaging with others online. But how do we, as followers of Christ, navigate these digital spaces in a way that honours God?

Our anchor for today's message comes from *Psalms 119:105* — “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” As we unpack this powerful verse, we will explore how the Word of God can illuminate not just our physical steps but our digital footprints as well. Let's start by reading the full verse together:

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." - Psalms 119:105*

## **1. The Power of God's Word as Our Lamp and Light**

Psalms 119 is a rich, poetic reflection on the beauty and power of God's Word. At its core, this chapter emphasises that Scripture is vital to our daily living. The imagery of God's Word being a *lamp to our feet* and a *light to our path* paints a picture of guidance, clarity, and protection. It suggests that just as we would use a lamp in darkness to see where we are stepping, so we must use God's Word to navigate the complexities of life.

- **Lamps in Ancient Times:**

In ancient Israel, a lamp wasn't like the bright, electric lights we have today. It was often a small clay lamp with oil, giving just enough light to take a few steps at a time. God's Word operates in a similar way in our lives. It might not reveal the entire

journey ahead of us, but it gives us enough light to make the next right step.

- **The Lamp in Our Online Lives:**

In today's world, we spend a significant portion of our time online, where the lines between right and wrong, truth and falsehood, can often feel blurred. It's easy to get swept away by the noise—endless scrolling on social media, heated debates, or content that challenges our values. But *God's Word is our lamp*, providing wisdom and clarity, even in the digital spaces.

## **2. Staying Grounded Amidst Online Distractions**

Let's reflect on the world we live in today—constant connectivity, non-stop news cycles, and social media feeds filled with countless opinions, pictures, and arguments. While the digital world offers wonderful opportunities, it also brings the danger of distraction.

- **Distraction vs. Discernment:**

We are easily distracted by what others are doing, saying, or posting online. But in the middle of this noise, Psalm 119:105 calls us back to God's Word, reminding us that Scripture is our true guide. It helps us discern what is worth engaging with and what is not. If we are not intentional, we can quickly become reactive, posting or commenting without thought, sharing content that doesn't align with our faith.

We need to ask ourselves: *Am I letting the Word of God shape my online presence, or am I being swayed by what's popular, entertaining, or provocative?*

## **3. Our Digital Footprint as a Testimony**

Every day, we leave a *digital footprint*—whether it's through the things we post, the conversations we have, or the way we engage

with others online. Just as our actions in the real world reflect Christ, so too do our actions online.

- **Our Online Witness:**

Whether we realise it or not, our words, posts, and comments reflect our heart. Are we shining the light of Christ with our online interactions? Are we pointing people to Him, or are we adding to the noise and confusion? As Christians, we are called to *be a light*, even in the digital world. Every post is an opportunity to reflect kindness, love, and grace.

Think about the moments when you've seen someone post something hurtful, sarcastic, or divisive. It can be discouraging, can't it? Now imagine what a difference it would make if we, as followers of Christ, filled the online world with encouragement, Scripture, and truth. We can be a breath of fresh air in the midst of negativity. *Our online presence is an extension of our witness for Christ.*

#### **4. Practical Steps to Reflect Christ Online**

The next part of our sermon is focused on how we can practically live out this call to let God's Word guide us in our online interactions.

- **Pause and Reflect Before You Post:**

How many of us have posted something in the heat of the moment? Maybe it was a reaction to someone's comment or a response to a news article. We've all been there! But Psalm 119:105 reminds us to pause and let God's Word be our filter. Before you post, ask yourself these questions:

- Does this reflect God's love and grace?
- Does this point others to Christ, or does it add to the division and confusion?

- Is this something that brings light, or does it contribute to the darkness?

*Proverbs 18:21* says, “The tongue has the power of life and death.” In the same way, our words online can either build up or tear down. By pausing to reflect, we ensure that our online interactions honor God and encourage others.

- **Set Boundaries for Your Online Time:**

To maintain balance, it’s important to set boundaries for our online interactions. This may include taking breaks from social media, limiting the time you spend online, or setting filters on your devices to avoid harmful content. These boundaries can help us stay focused on what matters most—our relationship with God.

Consider starting your day by meditating on a Bible verse, like *Psalms 119:105*. Let this verse be your foundation as you step into the digital world. It can serve as a filter for everything you do online, reminding you to be intentional and Christ-centred.

## **5. Using the Online World as a Platform for Christ**

The digital world is a powerful tool that, when used wisely, can further God’s kingdom. We can reach people around the world with the message of Christ in ways that were never possible before.

- **Be a Beacon of Light and Hope:**

One simple way to let God’s Word guide your online presence is by sharing Scripture, positive messages, or prayers on your social platforms. Whether it’s through posting an encouraging verse, offering to pray for someone, or simply sharing something uplifting, you can use your platform to point people to Jesus.

- **Engage with Love and Kindness:**

Another powerful way to reflect Christ is by engaging in love,

especially in online spaces filled with debate and division. Instead of jumping into arguments, we can choose to respond with grace. *Colossians 4:6* says, “Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” Imagine how different online discussions would look if we all took this verse to heart!

## **6. Action Steps for Today and Beyond**

As we close, I want to leave you with a few action steps to apply today:

### **1. Pray for Guidance:**

Before you log on to any social platform, take a moment to pray for wisdom and discernment. Ask God to guide your words and actions so that you can be a positive reflection of His love.

### **2. Be Intentional About Your Posts:**

Whether you’re sharing a picture, commenting on a post, or sending a message, be intentional about how your words reflect Christ. Is it something that glorifies God?

### **3. Encourage Others:**

Look for opportunities to encourage someone today. Maybe it’s a simple comment on a friend’s post, a private message offering prayer, or a Scripture verse you share to uplift others.

## **Conclusion:**

Psalm 119:105 teaches us that God’s Word is our guide, not just in the big decisions of life but in the everyday moments—including our online interactions. The digital world is full of noise, but we can choose to let the light of God’s Word shine through us in every post, comment, and conversation. Let us commit to being intentional

about our online presence, reflecting the love, truth, and grace of Christ in all we do.

As we leave today, let's remember that every word we speak, every post we share, and every comment we leave can be a reflection of Christ's light to a world that desperately needs hope. *May God's Word be the lamp that guides us, both online and offline, today and every day.* Amen.

Let's close in prayer.