

1 Chronicles 28:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

Analysis

David's charge to Solomon contains profound theological teaching: 'know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts.' The progression knowledge → service → wholehearted devotion reflects covenant relationship. 'Perfect heart' (lev shalem) means undivided loyalty, not sinless perfection. 'Willing mind' (nefesh chafetzah) emphasizes joyful rather than grudging service. The basis is God's omniscience - He searches hearts and knows thoughts (Hebrew: yetzer - inclinations/formations). This anticipates Christ's call to love God with all heart, soul, and mind.

Historical Context

David's public charge before Israel's assembly (c. 971 BCE) established Solomon's reign on proper foundation - personal knowledge of God, not merely administrative skill. This wisdom would serve Solomon well initially, though he later violated these principles through idolatry.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does knowing that God searches your heart and knows your thoughts affect your inner life?
2. What areas of your service to God need to move from duty to 'willing mind' - joyful devotion?

Interlinear Text

וְאַתָּה הָ	שְׁלֹמֹה	בְּנִי י	אֶת יָדְעַ	אֱלֹהֵי י	אָבִי יְיָ
H859	And thou Solomon	my son	know	H853 thou the God	of thy father
	H8010	H1121	H3045	H430	H1
וְעָבַדְתָּ הוּא	בְּלִבְךָ	שָׁלֵם	וּבְנֵי פֶשַׁע	חֲפִצָּה ה	כָּל כֹּף י
and serve	heart	him with a perfect	mind	and with a willing	H3588 H3605
H5647	H3820	H8003	H5315	H2655	
לְבָבוֹת	תִּדְרֹשׁ נֹו	יְהוָה ה	וְכָל	אֵי צָר	מִחְשָׁבֹת וְ
all hearts	if thou seek	for the LORD	H3605	all the imaginations	of the thoughts
H3824	H1875	H3068		H3336	H4284
מִבִּי יִן	אִם	תִּדְרֹשׁ נֹו	יִמָּצָא	לִי לְ	וְאִם
and understandeth	H518	if thou seek	him he will be found	H0	H518
H995		H1875	H4672		
תַּעֲזֹב נֹו	יִזְחֹק	לְעֹד:			
of thee but if thou forsake	him he will cast thee off	for ever			
H5800	H2186	H5703			

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 29:13 (Parallel theme): And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 24:7 (References God): And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.

1 Kings 8:61 (References God): Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, to walk in his statutes, and to keep his commandments, as at this day.

2 Chronicles 15:2 (References Lord): And he went out to meet Asa, and said unto him, Hear ye me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin; The LORD is with you, while ye be with him; and if ye seek him, he will be found of you; but if ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

Psalms 9:10 (References Lord): And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

1 Samuel 16:7 (References Lord): But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

John 4:24 (References God): God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Jeremiah 17:10 (References Lord): I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Psalms 139:2 (Parallel theme): Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.

Jeremiah 9:24 (References Lord): But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

