

1 Chronicles 29:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. As for me, in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things: and now have I seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee.

Analysis

David's confession 'I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness' reveals God's testing and approval. The verb 'triest' (bahan - test/prove) suggests refining fire, purifying motive. God delights (ratzah) in 'uprightness' (yosher - straightness/integrity) - pure motives, not mere external conformity. David's claim 'in the uprightness of mine heart I have willingly offered all these things' isn't self-righteousness but testimony to grace-wrought sincerity. The observation 'I have seen with joy thy people, which are present here, to offer willingly unto thee' shows community impact of personal integrity. This anticipates Christ, the perfectly upright one, in whom God is well-pleased.

Historical Context

David's testimony came near the end of his life (c. 971 BCE), reflecting mature spiritual insight gained through failures and restoration. His genuine joy at the people's response demonstrated that leadership's primary goal is catalyzing others' devotion to God.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does knowing God tests hearts and delights in uprightness affect your hidden motives and private thoughts?
2. What would it look like for your integrity and willing service to inspire joy and generosity in fellow believers?

Interlinear Text

וְיָדַעְתִּי	אֲלֵה י	כִּי	אַתָּה	בֵּחַ	לִבִּי
I know	also my God			that thou triest	of mine heart
H3045	H430	H3588	H859	H974	H3824
וּמִישָׁר יָם	תִּרְצֶה	אֲנִי	בִּישָׁר	לִבִּי	
As for me in the uprightness	and hast pleasure		in uprightness	of mine heart	
H4339	H7521	H589	H3476	H3824	
לְהַתְּנֵדָב	כָּל	וְעַתָּה	עַמְּךָ	הַנִּמְצְאוֹ	
I have willingly offered			thy people	which are present	
H5068	H3605	H428	H6258	H5971	H4672
כֹּה	כָּאֵת יִתִּי	בְּשִׂמְחָה	לְהַתְּנֵדָב	לִי:	
H6311	all these things and now have I seen	with joy	I have willingly offered		H0
	H7200	H8057	H5068		

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 17:10 (Parallel theme): 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.

Proverbs 11:20 (Parallel theme): They that are of a froward heart are abomination to the LORD: but such as are upright in their way are his delight.

1 Chronicles 28:9 (References God): 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.

1 Samuel 16:7 (Parallel theme): 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.

Hebrews 4:12 (References God): For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Psalms 51:6 (Parallel theme): Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom.

Proverbs 16:2 (Parallel theme): All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.

John 1:47 (Parallel theme): Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

2 Corinthians 1:12 (References God): For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

1 Thessalonians 2:10 (References God): Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

