

Deuteronomy 30:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.

Analysis

But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it. God's word is very nigh - not merely accessible but intimately near. The locations in thy mouth, and in thy heart indicate that Israel already possesses knowledge of God's requirements through teaching, memorization, and internal conviction.

The phrase in thy mouth refers to confession and proclamation. Israelites spoke God's law, taught it to children, and discussed it constantly (Deuteronomy 6:7). Oral transmission made the law continuously present in conversation.

That it is in thy heart indicates internal knowledge beyond mere external compliance. The law shaped conscience and moral reasoning, internalized through meditation and application. Heart knowledge enables heart obedience.

The purpose clause that thou mayest do it emphasizes that accessibility serves obedience. God makes His will known so people can obey. Knowledge creates responsibility and enables faithful action.

Historical Context

Jewish practice of memorizing Torah, teaching it to children, discussing it constantly, and wearing phylacteries ensured the law remained constantly present in mind and mouth.

This intensive engagement with Scripture produced culture where God's word shaped thought, speech, and behavior at every level.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does 'very nigh' teach about intimacy of God's word with His people?
2. How does speaking God's word continually keep it in the mouth?
3. What is the difference between external knowledge and heart internalization?
4. Why does accessibility of God's word create responsibility to obey?
5. How can contemporary believers keep God's word near in mouth and heart?

Interlinear Text

בְּרֹאשׁוֹת בְּלִבְבָּבְךָ כִּי מְאֹד כָּרְבָּר בְּרֹאשׁוֹת
H3588 **nigh** H413 **But the word** H1697 **is very** H3966 **unto thee in thy mouth** H6310

לְעַשְׂתָּו: בְּלִבְבָּבְךָ
and in thy heart that thou mayest do
H3824 H6213

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 12:2 (Parallel theme): Thou hast planted them, yea, they have taken root: they grow, yea, they bring forth fruit: thou art near in their mouth, and far from their reins.

Matthew 7:21 (Parallel theme): Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

John 5:46 (Parallel theme): For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.

Ezekiel 2:5 (Parallel theme): And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them.

Ezekiel 33:31 (Word): And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.

Ezekiel 33:33 (Parallel theme): And when this cometh to pass, (lo, it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them.