

# Ezekiel 1:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward.

## Analysis

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The joined wings represent unity of purpose among God's servants—no independent action, but coordinated obedience to divine will. 'They turned not when they went' emphasizes unwavering focus; unlike humans who waver and look back (Luke 9:62), these beings move straight toward God's purposes. Going 'every one straight forward' pictures the directness of divine action—God's will advances without deviation or compromise. This challenges our tendency toward spiritual meandering.

## Historical Context

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The coordinated movement of the cherubim contrasts sharply with Babylonian chaos theology, where gods competed and conflicted. Ezekiel's vision asserts Yahweh's sovereignty through perfectly coordinated servants. The exiles needed this vision to counteract exposure to Babylonian religion's polytheistic confusion. Unity of purpose reflects the Trinity's perfect harmony.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the cherubim's unity and straight-forward motion challenge our tendency toward factionalism and indirect approaches?
2. What does their refusal to turn aside teach us about maintaining focus on God's calling despite distractions?

## Interlinear Text

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|--------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------|--------------------|---------|-----|-----------|----|----------|-----|
| בְּלֹכֶת           | וְ         | כִּי            | בְּ               | לֹא                | כִּנְפִּים | מִ                 | אֶחָדָה | אֶל | אֶשְׁתָּה | וְ | חִבָּרָה | תִּ |
| <b>were joined</b> | <b>one</b> | H413            | <b>to another</b> | <b>Their wings</b> | H3808      | <b>they turned</b> | H1980   |     |           |    |          |     |
| H2266              | H802       |                 | H269              | H3671              |            | H5437              |         |     |           |    |          |     |
| וְ                 | לֹכֶד      | פָּנִים         | עַד               | אֶל                | אֶשְׁתָּה  |                    |         |     |           |    |          |     |
| <b>every one</b>   | H413       | <b>straight</b> | <b>forward</b>    | H1980              |            |                    |         |     |           |    |          |     |
| H376               |            | H5676           | H6440             |                    |            |                    |         |     |           |    |          |     |

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 10:22** (Parallel theme): And the likeness of their faces was the same faces which I saw by the river of Chebar, their appearances and themselves: they went every one straight forward.

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