

Isaiah 38:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

Analysis

Hezekiah's prayer appeals to his covenant faithfulness and wholehearted devotion, not as merit earning salvation, but as evidence of genuine faith. The Hebrew 'perfect heart' (shalem) means complete or undivided loyalty, not sinless perfection. His 'sore weeping' demonstrates that mature faith includes honest emotional expression before God, not stoic denial of human frailty.

Historical Context

Hezekiah's reforms (removing high places, breaking images, destroying the bronze serpent) and faithful tribute payment to God distinguished him from his predecessors. His 'walking before God' echoed the language of his ancestor David.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Do you bring your honest emotions to God in prayer, or try to sanitize them?
2. What evidence of faithful 'walking before God' characterizes your life?

Interlinear Text

אָשָׁר אָתָּה יְאָמֵן רְמִמְנָה
And said I beseech now O LORD Remember H4994 H853 H834

H559 H577 H3068 H2142

שָׁלֵם וְבָלֵב בְּאַמְתָה לִפְנֵי יְהָוָה הַתְּהִלָּל כְּתַתִּי
thee how I have walked before thee in truth heart and with a perfect H1980 H6440 H571 H3820 H8003

בְּכָה חִזְקִיָּהוּ וְבָטַע יְהָוָה עַשׂ יְהָוָה בְּעֵינֵי יְהָוָה וְבָטַע וְבָטַע
that which is good in thy sight and have done wept And Hezekiah H2896 H5869 H6213 H1058 H2396 H1065

גְּדֹלָה:

sore

H1419

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 6:10 (Parallel theme): For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Hebrews 5:7 (Parallel theme): Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

Nehemiah 13:14 (Good): Remember me, O my God, concerning this, and wipe not out my good deeds that I have done for the house of my God, and for the offices thereof.

Nehemiah 5:19 (Good): Think upon me, my God, for good, according to all that I have done for this people.

Nehemiah 13:22 (Parallel theme): And I commanded the Levites that they should cleanse themselves, and that they should come and keep the gates, to sanctify the

sabbath day. Remember me, O my God, concerning this also, and spare me according to the greatness of thy mercy.

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 (Parallel theme): 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.

Deuteronomy 6:18 (Good): And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the LORD: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers,

Psalms 6:8 (References Lord): Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the LORD hath heard the voice of my weeping.

1 Chronicles 29:19 (Parallel theme): And give unto Solomon my son a perfect heart, to keep thy commandments, thy testimonies, and thy statutes, and to do all these things, and to build the palace, for the which I have made provision.