

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

וַיֹּאמֶר	אֲנִי ה	יְהוָה	זָכֹר	נָא	אֵת	אֲשֶׁר
And said	I beseech	now O LORD	Remember	H4994	H853	H834
H559	H577	H3068	H2142			
הִתְהַלַּכְתִּי	לִפְנֵי יְיָ	בְּאֵמֶת	וּבְלִב	שֵׁלִי		
thee how I have walked	before	thee in truth	heart	and with a perfect		
H1980	H6440	H571	H3820	H8003		
וְהָטוֹב	בְּעֵינֵי יְיָ	עָשָׂה יְתִי	וַיִּבֶן	חֶזְקִיָּהּ	וְ	בֶּכָה
that which is good	in thy sight	and have done	wept	And Hezekiah		H1065
H2896	H5869	H6213	H1058	H2396		
גְּדֹלַת:						
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.