

Job 34:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That which I see not teach thou me: if I have done iniquity, I will do no more.

Analysis

That which I see not teach thou me (בְּלֹעֲדִי אֲתַתָּה אֶתְתָּה הָרְנִי) —The phrase "that which I see not" uses chazah (חִזָּה, "to see, perceive") with negative. This is a prayer for illumination—teach me what I cannot perceive. The verb yarah (רָאָה, Hiphil "to teach, instruct") is used of God teaching Torah (Deuteronomy 33:10). The phrase **if I have done iniquity, I will do no more** (אִם־עָשָׂה לֹא אַשְׁרָה) uses avel (עָשָׂה, iniquity, injustice) and yasaph (יָסַף, "to add, continue"). Elihu models repentance: asking God to reveal unknown sin, committing to cease.

This prayer echoes Psalm 19:12: "Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults," and Psalm 139:23-24: "Search me, O God... see if there be any wicked way in me." The reformed conscience knows sin's deceitfulness (Hebrews 3:13, Jeremiah 17:9)—we cannot fully perceive our own evil. We need divine illumination (Ephesians 1:18, Hebrews 4:12-13). The gospel provides both: the Spirit convicts of sin (John 16:8) and Christ cleanses from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Historical Context

Ancient Israelite piety emphasized self-examination and covenant loyalty. Sacrificial system included provisions for unintentional sins (Leviticus 4-5). Yet Job's case reveals limits of this framework—his suffering isn't corrective for sin. The psalm tradition developed this prayer for divine illumination (Psalms 19, 51,

139). NT builds on this: Spirit-enabled self-examination (1 Corinthians 11:28-31) and confidence that God's illumination leads to cleansing, not condemnation (1 John 1:7-9).

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How can we practice spiritual self-examination without falling into introspection or scrupulosity?
2. What role does the Holy Spirit play in revealing sin?
3. How does confidence in God's forgiveness enable honest self-examination?

Interlinear Text

בְּלֹא	אָמֵן	הִנֵּה	בְּנֵי	אָתָּה	הַ	אַחֲרֵי	אָמֵן	בְּלֹא	אָמֵן
not	That which I see		teach				iniquity		
H1107	H2372	H859	H518	H3384			H5766		
thou me if I have done			I will do						
H6466	H3808	H3254							

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 32:8 (Parallel theme): I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

Psalms 19:12 (Parallel theme): Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults.

Proverbs 28:13 (Sin): He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

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