

# Job 36:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For truly my words shall not be false: he that is perfect in knowledge is with thee.

## Analysis

**For truly my words shall not be false**—Elihu guarantees truthfulness using בְּלִי־שְׁקָר (bal-sheker), a strong negation meaning "not lies/deception." This oath-like formula claims divine inspiration for his discourse. The phrase **he that is perfect in knowledge is with thee** uses מֵעַד טְמִימָה יְמִינָה (temim de'im), literally "complete/perfect of knowledge."

Critical question: who is this "perfect in knowledge"? Three interpretations exist:

1. Elihu refers to himself with youthful arrogance
2. He speaks of God who observes this dialogue
3. He prophetically anticipates God's imminent appearance.

Context favors interpretation 2—Elihu claims God Himself validates this theological discourse, standing present though unseen. This foreshadows God's whirlwind speech (38:1). The phrase anticipates Colossians 2:3 where Christ embodies all wisdom's treasures, and James 1:5 where God gives wisdom generously to those who ask.

## Historical Context

Wisdom literature prized perfect knowledge (דַּעַת, da'ah) as the highest intellectual achievement. Egyptian and Mesopotamian sages similarly claimed divine inspiration for their teachings. Elihu's claim to perfect knowledge seems audacious until God's speeches prove him partially correct—suffering does have pedagogical

purposes beyond retribution. Unlike the three friends whose theology God explicitly rejects (42:7), Elihu's speeches stand uncorrected, suggesting his insights, though incomplete, align more closely with divine truth.

## Related Passages

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**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. How can we test whether our theological convictions are 'false words' or truth aligned with God's revelation?
2. What distinguishes confident proclamation of truth from presumptuous claims to 'perfect knowledge'?
3. How does recognizing God's presence in our discussions change how we speak about theology?

## Interlinear Text

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בְּ	אַ	מִתְמָ	לֹא	שְׁ	כִּרְ	מִלְ	תְּמִ	יְמִ	דִּעְ וְתִ
H3588	<b>For truly</b>		H3808	<b>shall not be false</b>		H4405	<b>my words</b>	<b>he that is perfect</b>	<b>in knowledge</b>
	H551			H8267			H8549		H1844

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H5973

## Additional Cross-References

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**Job 37:16** (Parallel theme): Dost thou know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him which is perfect in knowledge?

**1 Corinthians 14:20** (Parallel theme): Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding be men.

