

Job 4:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Is not this thy fear, thy confidence, thy hope, and the uprightness of thy ways?

Analysis

Eliphaz asks, 'Is not this thy fear, thy confidence, thy hope, and the uprightness of thy ways?' This could be read two ways: either asking if Job's former piety is now his confidence, or accusing Job's piety of being shallow. The Hebrew allows both readings. Eliphaz seems to suggest Job's faith was merely external righteousness rather than genuine trust, anticipating Satan's accusation. This shows how suffering provides opportunity for false teachers to doubt others' salvation.

Historical Context

Wisdom teachers debated whether piety guaranteed protection from suffering. Eliphaz represents the orthodox view of his time—that righteousness ensures prosperity—which Job's experience challenges.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How do you discern between genuine faith and mere external religion in yourself and others?

2. What role does suffering play in revealing the authenticity of faith?

Interlinear Text

הֵלֹא	! רָאִיתָ	בְּסֵלָתְךָ	תִּקְוָתְךָ	וְיָתִיב
H3808	Is not this thy fear	thy confidence	thy hope	and the uprightness
	H3374	H3690	H8615	H8537
דְּרָכֶיךָ:				
of thy ways				
H1870				

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 3:26 (Parallel theme): For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

Proverbs 14:26 (Parallel theme): In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

Job 1:1 (Parallel theme): There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

Job 17:15 (Hope): And where is now my hope? as for my hope, who shall see it?

Job 16:17 (Parallel theme): Not for any injustice in mine hands: also my prayer is pure.

2 Kings 20:3 (Parallel theme): I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now 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.

Job 13:15 (Parallel theme): Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

1 Peter 1:13 (Hope): Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

1 Peter 1:17 (Parallel theme): And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org