

John 14:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

Analysis

Jesus commands 'Let not your heart be troubled' (me tarassestho hymon he kardia), using present imperative with negative to prohibit ongoing anxiety. The verb tarasso means to stir up, agitate, disturb. Jesus addresses emotional turmoil with theological truth: 'ye believe in God, believe also in me' (pisteuete eis ton theon, kai eis eme pisteuete). This can be read as indicative (you believe... you believe) or imperative (believe... believe). Either way, Jesus parallels faith in God with faith in Himself - a staggering claim to equality with God. Trust in Christ is presented as the antidote to troubled hearts. The command comes immediately after Jesus predicts Judas' betrayal and Peter's denial - circumstances that would naturally produce anxiety. Yet Jesus offers His own person as the ground for peace. Faith in Christ's identity, mission, and promises overcomes circumstances.

Historical Context

Spoken in the Upper Room on the night before crucifixion, these words address disciples' confusion and fear as Jesus predicts His departure. The Farewell Discourse (chapters 14-17) provides Jesus' final instructions to prepare them for His absence. In Jewish thought, a troubled heart indicated spiritual distress and covenant-breaking anxiety. Jesus' parallel between faith in God and faith in Himself establishes His divine identity - only God is proper object of saving faith. Early Christians facing persecution found comfort in this command. Church tradition has used this verse in funeral liturgy, addressing grief with resurrection hope. The command remains relevant: circumstances inevitably disturb, but faith in Christ

provides stable ground. Martin Luther reportedly wrote this verse on his study wall as encouragement during Reformation conflicts.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' command not to be troubled relate to genuine emotional processing versus suppression?
2. What is the relationship between believing in God and believing in Jesus, and why does Jesus parallel them?

Interlinear Text

Μὴ ταρασσέσθω ὑμῶν ἡ καρδία· πιστεύετε εἰς τὸν
not Let your G3588 heart believe in G3588
G3361 G5015 G5216 G2588 G4100 G1519

θεόν καὶ εἰς ἐμὲ πιστεύετε
God also in me believe
G2316 G2532 G1519 G1691 G4100

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 26:3 (Faith): Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.

John 12:44 (Faith): Jesus cried and said, He that believeth on me, believeth not on me, but on him that sent me.

John 6:40 (Faith): And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Psalms 43:5 (References God): Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

1 Peter 1:21 (Faith): Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

John 13:19 (Faith): Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.

Ephesians 1:15 (Faith): Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

2 Thessalonians 2:2 (Parallel theme): That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

John 12:27 (Parallel theme): Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

John 5:23 (Parallel theme): That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.