

Joshua 23:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God.

Analysis

The warning—"Take good heed therefore unto yourselves, that ye love the LORD your God"—connects carefulness with love. The phrase 'take good heed' demands vigilance, showing love isn't automatic but requires intentional cultivation. The reflexive 'unto yourselves' indicates personal responsibility—each individual must guard their own heart. This demonstrates that love for God, though commanded, requires volitional effort to maintain. Spiritual disciplines serve love's preservation.

Historical Context

This warning preceded prohibition against intermarriage with Canaanites (verse 12-13), showing practical connection between love for God and behavioral choices. Failure to guard love leads to compromise, which produces apostasy. Solomon later exemplified this tragic pattern—foreign wives turned his heart from God (1 Kings 11:1-8). The warning's necessity shows that even those who experienced God's great works can drift without vigilance. No generation automatically inherits parents' faithfulness.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What practical disciplines help you guard and cultivate love for God?
2. How do relationship choices either strengthen or endanger your devotion to God?

Interlinear Text

וְנִשְׁמְרֶתָּ	מֵאֵד	לְנַפְשֵׁיכֶם	לְאַהֲבָה	אֶת	יְהוָה
heed	Take good	therefore unto yourselves	that ye love	H853	the LORD
H8104	H3966	H5315	H157		H3068

אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:
your God
H430

Additional Cross-References

Joshua 22:5 (Love): But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Proverbs 4:23 (Parallel theme): Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Hebrews 12:15 (References God): Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

Exodus 20:6 (Love): And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Romans 8:28 (Love): And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

1 Corinthians 16:22 (Love): If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

1 Corinthians 8:3 (Love): But if any man love God, the same is known of him.

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