

Judges 6:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me.

Analysis

Gideon requests a sign to confirm this is truly divine revelation: 'Show me a sign that thou talkest with me.' The Hebrew *ot* (תֹּיָא, 'sign') denotes authenticating evidence, not faithless demand for proof. Like Moses requesting credentials (Exodus 3:12, 4:1-9), Gideon seeks assurance for the extraordinary calling. This distinguishes legitimate seeking of confirmation from presumptuous testing of God (Matthew 4:7). The Angel grants Gideon's request, demonstrating divine condescension to human weakness. Reformed theology affirms God accommodates our frailty, providing assurance through Word, sacraments, and internal witness of the Spirit.

Historical Context

Prophetic authentication through signs was established in Mosaic law (Deuteronomy 13:1-3, 18:21-22). False prophets might perform signs, requiring discernment based on doctrinal orthodoxy. Gideon's request reflects proper caution—extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence. The context of widespread apostasy and false worship made discernment essential.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How can believers distinguish between legitimate seeking of confirmation and faithless demand for proof?
2. What signs has God provided to authenticate Christian faith (Scripture, resurrection, Spirit's witness)?
3. When is it appropriate to request divine confirmation for major decisions?

Interlinear Text

וַיֹּאמֶר	אֵלַי יוֹ	אָמַר	נָא	מַעַן אֲנִי	יְהוָה	בְּעֵינֶיךָ יֵרָא
And he said	H413	H518	H4994	unto him If now I have found	grace	in thy sight
H559				H4672	H2580	H5869
וְעַתָּה יְהוָה	לִי	אֶת	שְׁמֹעַתָּה הִיא	מִדְבָּרִי	עַמִּי:	
then shew	H0	me a sign	H859	that thou talkest	H5973	
H6213		H226		H1696		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 7:11 (Parallel theme): Ask thee a sign of the LORD thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above.

Psalms 86:17 (Parallel theme): Shew me a token for good; that they which hate me may see it, and be ashamed: because thou, LORD, hast holpen me, and comforted me.

Exodus 33:13 (Grace): Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people.

Exodus 33:16 (Grace): For wherein shall it be known here that I and thy people have found grace in thy sight? is it not in that thou goest with us? so shall we be separated, I and thy people, from all the people that are upon the face of the earth.