

Proverbs 2:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;

Analysis

Crying out for knowledge employs the language of desperate prayer. The Hebrew 'qara' and 'nathan' (cry/lift voice) are used elsewhere for urgent petitioning of God. This shows that gaining wisdom is fundamentally a spiritual exercise requiring dependence on God's revelation, not merely intellectual effort.

Historical Context

Crying aloud was the typical posture of prayer in ancient Israel, both in temple worship and personal devotion. This public earnestness contrasts with merely private, internal seeking.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How fervently do you pray for spiritual understanding compared to material needs?
2. What would change if you sought God's wisdom with the same urgency as other desires?

Interlinear Text

יָכֹל	אֶחָד	לְבִינָה	תִּקְרָא	לְתִבּוּן	וַתִּלָּחֶץ
H3588	H518	after knowledge	Yea if thou criest	for understanding	and liftest up
		H998	H7121	H8394	H5414
קוֹלְךָ:					
thy voice					
H6963					

Additional Cross-References

James 1:5 (Parallel theme): If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Proverbs 3:6 (Parallel theme): In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Psalms 119:169 (Parallel theme): Let my cry come near before thee, O LORD: give me understanding according to thy word.

Psalms 119:125 (Parallel theme): I am thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know thy testimonies.