

Proverbs 24:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.

Analysis

'If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small'—trials reveal true character and capacity. Those who collapse under pressure demonstrate weakness, while those who persevere show genuine strength. Adversity tests and exposes what prosperity conceals. This isn't condemning those who struggle but calling for cultivation of genuine strength through faith, wisdom, and character. Romans 5:3-5 teaches that tribulation produces perseverance and character. Believers should expect trials and prepare through spiritual disciplines. Don't be surprised by adversity; be ready for it. Build strength before the test comes through consistent godly living, Scripture intake, prayer, and fellowship. When trials arrive, proven character will enable perseverance.

Historical Context

Israel faced repeated adversities—Egyptian slavery, wilderness wandering, Philistine oppression, exile. God used these to test, refine, and demonstrate His people's faith or lack thereof.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How have you responded when facing adversity—with perseverance or collapse?
2. What spiritual disciplines can you strengthen now to prepare for future trials?

Interlinear Text

כַּחֲכָה: צָרָא תְּכִפִּית בַּיּוֹם אֲמִתָּה צָבָה הַיּוֹם
If thou faint in the day of adversity is small thy strength
H7503 H3117 H6869 H6862 H3581

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 3:13 (Parallel theme): Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

Jeremiah 51:46 (Parallel theme): And lest your heart faint, and ye fear for the rumour that shall be heard in the land; a rumour shall both come one year, and after that in another year shall come a rumour, and violence in the land, ruler against ruler.

1 Samuel 27:1 (Parallel theme): And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand.

2 Corinthians 4:1 (Parallel theme): Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

Job 4:5 (Parallel theme): But now it is come upon thee, and thou faintest; it toucheth thee, and thou art troubled.

Revelation 2:3 (Parallel theme): And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

Revelation 2:13 (Parallel theme): I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas was my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

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