

Psalm 112:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed,
trusting in the LORD.

Analysis

This verse addresses fear and faith: 'He shall not be afraid of evil tidings.' 'Evil tidings' (shemu'ah ra'ah) means bad news, reports of danger, or threatening circumstances. The promise isn't absence of evil news but absence of paralyzing fear in response to it. The second clause explains the source of this courage: 'his heart is fixed, trusting in the LORD.' 'Fixed' (nakown) means established, steadfast, stable - the same word from Psalm 108:1. The heart's stability comes from 'trusting in the LORD.' Trust (batach) means confident reliance, security in God's character and promises. A heart fixed on God remains stable regardless of external circumstances. This verse presents the antidote to fear: not the absence of threats but the presence of trust. It establishes that courage isn't natural temperament but theological conviction - those who truly know God's character need not be controlled by fear of circumstances.

Historical Context

In the ancient world, 'evil tidings' might include reports of approaching armies, famine, plague, or personal disaster. Israel's history was marked by such threats - Egyptian pursuit, Canaanite armies, Philistine invasions, Assyrian and Babylonian threats. The righteous person's response was tested repeatedly. This verse echoes Isaiah's counsel to Ahaz when facing Syrian and Ephraimite invasion: 'Take heed, and be quiet; fear not' (Isaiah 7:4). The stability of a 'fixed heart' contrasts with the anxious heart that wavers with every report. For exilic Jews, evil tidings were constant - destruction, captivity, oppression. Yet prophets like Daniel maintained

fixed hearts through trust in God. New Testament teaching continues this theme: 'Be careful for nothing' (Philippians 4:6), 'casting all your care upon him' (1 Peter 5:7). The early church faced constant evil tidings - persecution, martyrdom - yet testimonies speak of believers facing death without fear. This verse has sustained martyrs, missionaries, and everyday believers facing life's uncertainties.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What is the relationship between a heart 'fixed' on God and freedom from fear of evil tidings?
2. How can believers cultivate trust in the LORD that produces this kind of stability?
3. Why does the verse promise freedom from fear of evil news rather than promise of only receiving good news?
4. In what areas of life are we most susceptible to being afraid of 'evil tidings'?
5. How does trust in God's sovereignty and goodness enable us to receive bad news without being overcome by fear?

Interlinear Text

בְּתִדְבָּרָה מִשְׁמֹעַת הָאָתָה לֹא יִירְאֶה אֶלְכָּלָל יְמִינָה אֲלֵיכָה
tidings of evil H3808 He shall not be afraid is fixed his heart trusting
H8052 H7451 H3372 H3559 H3820 H982

בְּיְהִינָּה:

in the LORD

H3068

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 57:7 (Parallel theme): My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise.

Proverbs 1:33 (Evil): But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

Psalms 118:6 (References Lord): The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?

John 14:1 (Faith): Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

Psalms 64:10 (Faith): The righteous shall be glad in the LORD, and shall trust in him; and all the upright in heart shall glory.

Psalms 34:4 (References Lord): I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

Psalms 62:8 (Faith): Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.

Daniel 3:16 (Parallel theme): Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

Acts 27:25 (Faith): Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me.

Luke 21:9 (Parallel theme): But when ye shall hear of wars and commotions, be not terrified: for these things must first come to pass; but the end is not by and by.

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