

# Psalms 116:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I believed, therefore have I spoken: I was greatly afflicted:

## Analysis

**I believed, therefore have I spoken: I was greatly afflicted.** This verse establishes the connection between faith and testimony. **I believed, therefore have I spoken** (he'emanti ki adaber, הֶעֱמַנְתִּי כִּי אֲדַבֵּר) uses aman (אָמֵן), the root of 'amen,' meaning to confirm, support, be faithful. Belief isn't merely internal assent but produces external testimony. Faith speaks.

Paul quotes this verse in 2 Corinthians 4:13: 'We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak.' Faith compels testimony despite affliction. The gospel isn't silenced by suffering but proclaimed through it.

**I was greatly afflicted** (ani aniti meod, אֲנִי עָנִיּוֹתִי מְאֹד) admits extreme suffering. Anah (עָנָה) means to be afflicted, humbled, oppressed. The adverb meod (מְאֹד, greatly, exceedingly) intensifies the description. Yet affliction didn't silence faith—it produced testimony. This is the Christian paradox: weakness occasions powerful witness (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

## Historical Context

Israel's history testified despite affliction. Exiled in Babylon, they sang the LORD's songs in strange lands (Psalm 137). Persecuted Judeans maintained faith under Syrian oppression (Maccabean period). Post-exilic returnees rebuilt despite opposition (Ezra-Nehemiah). Faith speaks because it must—testimony is intrinsic to belief. The early church faced persecution yet proclaimed Christ boldly (Acts

4:20, 'We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard'). Martyrdom itself became witness (martyria, testimony).

## Related Passages

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**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does your faith find expression in spoken testimony, or does it remain privately silent?
2. What is the relationship between affliction and authentic testimony—how does suffering validate witness?
3. How does Paul's application of this verse in 2 Corinthians 4:13 help you understand the connection between faith and proclamation?

## Interlinear Text

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אֲמַנְתִּי	כִּי	אֲדַבֵּר	אֲנִי	עָנֵה יָתִי	נְאֻדָּ:
<b>I believed</b>	H3588	<b>therefore have I spoken</b>	H589	<b>afflicted</b>	<b>I was greatly</b>
H539		H1696		H6031	H3966

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Corinthians 4:13** (Faith): We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

**Hebrews 11:1** (Faith): Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

**Proverbs 21:28** (Parallel theme): A false witness shall perish: but the man that heareth speaketh constantly.

**2 Peter 1:21** (Parallel theme): For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

**2 Peter 1:16** (Parallel theme): For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

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