

Psalms 119:102

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me.

Analysis

I have not departed from thy judgments (לֹא־עָזַבְתִּיךָ לִמִּשְׁפָּטֶיךָ mimishpatekha lo-sarti)—Sur (turn aside, depart) with the negative lo emphasizes steadfastness. Mishpatim (judgments, ordinances, decisions) are God's legal pronouncements. **For thou hast taught me** (כִּי־אַתָּה הוֹרֵתָנִי ki-attah horetani)—Yarah (teach, instruct, direct) is the root of torah (instruction, law). Divine pedagogy produces perseverance.

Cause and effect: God's teaching prevents departure. This isn't willpower but Spirit-wrought loyalty. Jeremiah 31:33's new covenant promise—"I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts"—creates what it commands. Jesus promised the Spirit would "teach you all things" (John 14:26). The psalmist's fidelity isn't human resolve but divine tutelage internalized. John 6:45 quotes Isaiah: "They shall be all taught of God."

Historical Context

Israel's history was a cycle of apostasy: they departed (sur) from God's judgments, worshiped idols, suffered exile. The psalmist's claim represents remnant faithfulness—those who, by grace, did not bow to Baal (1 Kings 19:18). Post-exilic Judaism emphasized Torah fidelity to avoid repeating ancestors' errors.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing God as your teacher (not just the Bible as your textbook) affect your approach to Scripture study?
2. Can you trace areas of spiritual perseverance in your life back to specific seasons when God 'taught' you through His Word?

Interlinear Text

מִמִּשְׁפָּט יְיָ	לֹא	סָרָתִי	כִּי	אֶתְּהַ	הוֹרַתָּנִי:
from thy judgments	H3808	I have not departed	H3588	H859	for thou hast taught
H4941		H5493			H3384

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 18:21 (Parallel theme): For I have kept the ways of the LORD, and have not wickedly departed from my God.

Proverbs 5:7 (Parallel theme): Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.

1 John 2:27 (Parallel theme): But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (Parallel theme): For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

1 John 2:19 (Parallel theme): They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

Jeremiah 32:40 (Parallel theme): And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

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