

Psalms 119:106

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep thy
righteous judgments.

Analysis

The Nun (נ) section begins with **I have sworn, and I will perform it** (נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי וְאֶקְיֶמָהּ, nishba'ti va'aqayemah)—a solemn vow using the verb shaba (to swear an oath). This echoes Nehemiah's covenant renewal (Neh 10:29) and prefigures the New Covenant sealed in Christ's blood. The psalmist's resolve **to keep thy righteous judgments** (לְקַיֵּם צִדְקֹתֶיךָ, mishpetei tzidkekha) reflects covenantal commitment—God's mishpatim are not arbitrary rules but righteous ordinances flowing from His character.

Performance of vows was legally binding in Israel (Deut 23:21-23), making this a serious commitment. The structure parallels wedding vows or military oaths—public declaration followed by faithful execution. This verse challenges cheap grace and easy-believism, demanding resolved obedience rooted in covenant loyalty.

Historical Context

Written during David's persecution or the Babylonian exile, when keeping God's law required costly commitment. Oath-taking in ancient Israel was sacred and legally binding, invoking God as witness. The righteous judgments refer to the Torah given at Sinai, the foundation of Israel's covenant relationship with Yahweh.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What vows have you made to God that require renewed commitment and faithful performance?
2. How does the psalmist's sworn obedience challenge a Christianity that emphasizes grace without discipleship?
3. In what ways does covenant loyalty to God's word require sacrifice in your current circumstances?

Interlinear Text

נִשְׁבַּעַ עֲתִי	וְאֶקְרִי מָה	לִ שְׁמִי ר	מִשְׁפָּטִי י	צְדִקָּתְךָ:
I have sworn	and I will perform	it that I will keep	judgments	thy righteous
H7650	H6965	H8104	H4941	H6664

Additional Cross-References

Nehemiah 10:29 (Judgment): They clave to their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse, and into an oath, to walk in God's law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord, and his judgments and his statutes;

Psalms 56:12 (Parallel theme): Thy vows are upon me, O God: I will render praises unto thee.

2 Corinthians 8:5 (Parallel theme): And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

2 Kings 23:3 (Parallel theme): And the king stood by a pillar, and made a covenant before the LORD, to walk after the LORD, and to keep his commandments and his testimonies and his statutes with all their heart and all their soul, to perform the words of this covenant that were written in this book. And all the people stood to the covenant.

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