

Psalm 119:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Analysis

The Hebrew 'tsaphan' (hid) suggests treasuring or storing up, not concealment from others. Hiding God's Word 'in the heart' (leb—the inner person, including mind and will) means deep internalization through memorization and meditation. The purpose clause 'that I might not sin against thee' reveals Scripture's sanctifying function (John 17:17; Ephesians 5:26). This verse embodies the psalmist's strategy for holiness: preventive rather than merely corrective. Christ exemplified this principle by wielding Scripture against Satan's temptations (Matthew 4:4, 7, 10). The verse assumes God's Word as the objective standard for righteousness.

Historical Context

Psalm 119, the longest chapter in the Bible, is an elaborate acrostic celebrating God's torah. Each eight-verse section corresponds to a Hebrew letter. Written during Israel's Second Temple period, it reflects the centrality of written Scripture in Jewish piety and the post-exilic emphasis on covenant faithfulness through law observance.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How much Scripture have you memorized, and how has it protected you from sin in specific situations?
2. What system or practice could you implement to hide God's Word more deeply in your heart?

Interlinear Text

לֹא לְמַעַן אֶחֱנָתָךְ צָפַנְתִּי בְּלִבִּי
in mine heart have I hid Thy word H4616 H3808 that I might not sin H0
H3820 H6845 H565 H2398

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 37:31 (Word): The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.

Colossians 3:16 (Word): Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Psalms 40:8 (Word): I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

Jeremiah 15:16 (Word): Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O LORD God of hosts.

Psalms 1:2 (Word): But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Job 22:22 (Word): Receive, I pray thee, the law from his mouth, and lay up his words in thine heart.

Psalms 119:97 (Word): O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

Isaiah 51:7 (Word): Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.

Proverbs 2:1 (Word): My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

Luke 2:19 (Parallel theme): But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

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