

Psalm 119:112

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes alway, even unto the end.

Analysis

The Samekh (ס) section begins: **I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes** (נתתי לבי לעשׂות חקיך). The verb natah means to bend, stretch out, incline—a deliberate act of will. The heart (lev) in Hebrew encompasses mind, will, and emotions—the control center of the person. This is not passive emotion but active volition bent toward obedience.

To perform (la'asot, to do, make, accomplish) emphasizes action, not mere hearing. **Alway, even unto the end** (לעוֹלָם עַד־בָּה, le'olam eqev)—olam means perpetuity, forever; eqev means heel, end, reward. The psalmist commits to lifelong obedience until his final breath. This mirrors Jesus's commitment: **I do always those things that please him** (John 8:29). Caleb exemplified this—he 'wholly followed the LORD' from age 40 to 85 (Josh 14:8-14).

Historical Context

Written in a culture where covenant loyalty was measured by perseverance, not initial enthusiasm. Israel's history showed repeated cycles of devotion followed by apostasy. The psalmist's vow of endurance 'unto the end' addresses this pattern, committing to finish what he started.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does it mean practically to 'incline your heart' toward obedience rather than waiting to feel like obeying?
2. How do you maintain spiritual momentum from initial commitment to final perseverance 'unto the end'?
3. In what areas has your heart drifted from God's statutes that need to be re-inclined through deliberate choice?

Interlinear Text

עֲקָב: לְעוֹלָם עַד יְמִינָה לְעַשׂ וְתָבֵן נְטַחֵת יְתִיעָה

I have inclined mine heart to perform thy statutes alway even unto the end

H5186 H3820 H6213 H2706 H5769 H6118

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:33 (Parallel theme): Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.

Psalms 119:36 (Parallel theme): Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness.

Psalms 141:4 (Parallel theme): Incline not my heart to any evil thing, to practise wicked works with men that work iniquity: and let me not eat of their dainties.

Joshua 24:23 (Parallel theme): Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the LORD God of Israel.

1 Kings 8:58 (Parallel theme): That he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and his statutes, and his judgments, which he commanded our fathers.

Psalms 119:44 (Parallel theme): So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever.

1 Peter 1:13 (Parallel theme): Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Philippians 2:13 (Parallel theme): For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

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