

Psalms 119:117

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.

Analysis

Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe (וְאֶשְׁעָה בְּחֻקֶּיךָ תְּמִיד, se'adeni ve'ivvashe'ah)—the verb sa'ad means support, sustain, strengthen. The result clause uses yasha (be saved, delivered, victorious)—the root of Yeshua/Jesus. Divine support produces salvation. This parallels verse 116's upholding, intensifying the plea. The psalmist knows he cannot stand alone; safety requires God's active intervention.

And I will have respect unto thy statutes continually (וְאֶשְׁעָה בְּחֻקֶּיךָ תְּמִיד, ve'esh'ah vechuqqekha tamid)—the verb sha'ah means to gaze upon, regard, look attentively. Continual (tamid) gazing at God's statutes is both motivation for asking God's help and the result of receiving it. This circular relationship appears throughout Scripture: God's grace enables obedience, which increases hunger for more grace. The psalmist will not take God's deliverance for granted but respond with intensified devotion to His statutes.

Historical Context

The language of being 'held up' evokes military imagery—a soldier supported by comrades in battle. For Israel, safety came not from military might but from God's sustaining power. Those upheld by God could face any enemy while maintaining focus on His law.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. In what specific situations do you need God to 'hold you up' for safety and victory?
2. How does experiencing God's deliverance increase your respect for and attention to His statutes?
3. What does it mean to 'have respect unto God's statutes continually' in daily practice?

Interlinear Text

חַסְדְּךָ יְיָ	וְאֶנֶשׁ עָה	וְאֶשְׁׁׁ ה	בְּחֶקְךָ יְיָ
Hold thou me up	and I shall be safe	and I will have respect	unto thy statutes
H5582	H3467	H8159	H2706
תָּמִיד:			
continually			
H8548			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:6 (Parallel theme): Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.

Psalms 71:6 (Parallel theme): By thee have I been holden up from the womb: thou art he that took me out of my mother's bowels: my praise shall be continually of thee.

Psalms 139:10 (Parallel theme): Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

Psalms 17:5 (Parallel theme): Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not.

Jude 1:24 (Parallel theme): Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

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