

Psalms 119:133

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.

Analysis

Order my steps in thy word (הַכֵּן פְּעָמַי בְּאִמְרֹתֶיךָ, hakhen pe'amai b'imratekha)—Kun means to establish, make firm, direct. Pe'am refers to feet/steps, the walk of life. Imrah (word/saying) is God's specific utterance. The prayer requests that God's Word govern every step, establishing a secure path (Prov 3:5-6, 16:9).

Let not any iniquity have dominion over me (וְאַל-תַּשְׁלֵט־בִּי כָל-אַוֶּן, v'al-tashlet-bi khol-aven)—Shalat means to rule, dominate, exercise mastery. Aven (iniquity, wickedness) must not become the ruling power. The Christian parallel: 'Let not sin reign in your mortal body' (Rom 6:12).

Historical Context

The metaphor of walking reflects Hebrew thought where life is a journey, a 'way' (Derek). God's Word functions as lamp (v. 105) and guide. Without divine direction, humans wander into sin's dominion—a central concern in wisdom literature (Proverbs).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. Do you actively submit each 'step' of your daily decisions to God's Word, or only major life choices?
2. What specific iniquity threatens to 'have dominion' over you right now?
3. How does God's Word establish and secure your steps—what's the mechanism?

Interlinear Text

פָּעֲמִי	הֵכֵן	בְּאַמְרֶתְךָ	וְאֵל	תִּשְׁלֹט	בִּי	כָל
my steps	Order	in thy word	H408	have dominion	H0	H3605
H6471	H3559	H565		H7980		

וְלֹא־יִשְׁלֹט
and let not any iniquity
H205

Additional Cross-References

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

Psalms 19:13 (Sin): Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

Psalms 119:116 (Word): Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope.

Psalms 32:8 (Parallel theme): I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

Psalms 121:3 (Parallel theme): He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

1 Samuel 2:9 (Parallel theme): He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.

