

# Psalms 119:135

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Make thy face to shine upon thy servant; and teach me thy statutes.

## Analysis

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**Make thy face to shine upon thy servant** (פָּנֶיךָ הָאֵר בְּעַבְדְּךָ, paneiḵa ha'er b'avdekha)—Or means to give light, illuminate, shine. This echoes the Aaronic blessing (Num 6:25) and recurs in Psalm 80:3, 7, 19. The shining face represents God's favor, pleasure, and manifest presence—the opposite of a hidden or angry face (Ps 27:9).

**Teach me thy statutes** (וְלַמְדֵּנִי אֶת־חֻקֶּיךָ, v'lamdeni et-chuqeika)—Lamad (teach) + chuqqim (statutes, decrees). Divine illumination and instruction are linked—God's shining face includes teaching His ways. Light brings both warmth (favor) and clarity (understanding).

## Historical Context

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The tabernacle/temple menorah symbolized God's illuminating presence among His people. High priestly blessings invoked God's shining face. The ultimate fulfillment: 'In thy light shall we see light' (Ps 36:9), fulfilled in Christ, the light of the world (John 8:12).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. What's the connection between experiencing God's favor (shining face) and learning His statutes?
2. How do you know when God's face is shining upon you versus when He seems distant?
3. Does your prayer life prioritize experiencing God's presence or merely receiving His benefits?

## Interlinear Text

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פָּנֵי	הָאֵל	בְּעֶבֶדְךָ	לְמַדְךָ	אֶת	חֻמֵּי:
Make thy face	to shine	upon thy servant	and teach	H853	me thy statutes
H6440	H215	H5650	H3925		H2706

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 4:6** (Parallel theme): There be many that say, Who will shew us any good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.

**Luke 24:45** (Parallel theme): Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

**Psalms 80:7** (Parallel theme): Turn us again, O God of hosts, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

**Psalms 80:19** (Parallel theme): Turn us again, O LORD God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

**Psalms 80:3** (Parallel theme): Turn us again, O God, and cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved.

**Job 36:22** (Parallel theme): Behold, God exalteth by his power: who teacheth like him?