

Psalm 119:145

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O LORD: I will keep thy statutes.

Analysis

I cried with my whole heart (קְרָאתִי בְּכָל־לֹב, qarati be-khol-lev)—The Qoph (ן) stanza begins with wholehearted prayer. Qara means to call out, summon, proclaim—here a desperate cry for divine response. **Hear me, O LORD: I will keep thy statutes**—The petition is paired with a vow of obedience. Prayer and promise are inseparable; the psalmist seeks God's help to do God's will.

This is covenant prayer—not bargaining but alignment. James 5:16 speaks of "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man." Jesus prayed with this same intensity in Gethsemane: "Not my will, but thine" (Luke 22:42). Wholehearted prayer combines urgency (I cried), totality (whole heart), divine dependence (hear me), and volitional commitment (I will keep).

Historical Context

In Israel's liturgy, crying out to YHWH in distress was a foundational act of covenant faith (Exodus 2:23, Judges 3:9, Psalm 18:6). The prophets repeatedly called for wholehearted return to YHWH (Joel 2:12).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 – Judging others

Study Questions

1. What would it look like to pray with your 'whole heart' rather than divided loyalties or halfhearted devotion?
2. How does linking prayer ('hear me') with commitment ('I will keep') change the nature of your petitions?

Interlinear Text

מַלְאֵךְ יְהֹוָה אֶעֱגֶן נִי לְבָבֶךְ בְּכָל קָרְבָּן אֲתִי
KOPH I cried H3605 with my whole heart hear me O LORD thy statutes
H7121 H3820 H6030 H3068 H2706

אצְרָה:

I will keep

H5341

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:10 (Parallel theme): With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

Psalms 119:106 (Parallel theme): I have sworn, and I will perform it, that I will keep thy righteous judgments.

Jeremiah 29:13 (Parallel theme): And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Psalms 62:8 (Parallel theme): Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.

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

Psalms 86:4 (References Lord): Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

Psalms 119:115 (Parallel theme): Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God.

Psalms 102:1 (References Lord): Hear my prayer, O LORD, and let my cry come unto thee.

1 Samuel 1:15 (References Lord): And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

1 Samuel 1:10 (References Lord): And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.