

Psalms 119:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

Analysis

I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word. The Beth (ב) stanza concludes with promised delight and remembrance. **Delight myself** (eshta'asha, עֲשֵׂתָשָׂה) is an intensive reflexive form suggesting luxuriating or finding pleasure in God's **statutes** (chuqqotekha, חֻקֹּתֶךָ). This is not grim duty but joyful engagement—finding satisfaction and pleasure in what God has decreed. Such delight is supernatural; the unregenerate heart finds God's law burdensome (Romans 8:7).

The parallel promise **I will not forget thy word** (lo eshkach devarekha, לֹא אֲשַׁכֵּח דְּבָרֶךָ) connects delight with retention. What we love, we remember; what bores us, we forget. **Word** (davar, דְּבָר) is the comprehensive term for God's communication. This anticipates verse 11: 'Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.' Jesus promised the Spirit would bring His words to remembrance (John 14:26), enabling believers to fulfill this commitment.

Historical Context

Israel's greatest failure was forgetting—forgetting God's works (Psalm 78:11), forgetting the covenant (Deuteronomy 4:9), forgetting God Himself (Jeremiah 2:32). The entire Deuteronomic history interprets Israel's downfall as the consequence of forgetting Yahweh. Against this backdrop, the psalmist's determination not to forget represents covenant loyalty and conscious resistance to the spiritual amnesia that plagued Israel.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What evidence suggests you genuinely delight in God's Word versus viewing it as religious duty?
2. What practices help you remember and retain Scripture in an age of information overload and distraction?
3. How might memorization and meditation work together to prevent spiritual forgetfulness?

Interlinear Text

בְּרִית מִתְּהֻנָּה	עֲשֵׂה	לֹא	אֲשַׁפֵּע	חַדְּשָׁה	דְּבָרָבָן
myself in thy statutes	I will delight		H3808	I will not forget	thy word
H2708	H8173			H7911	H1697

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:24 (Light): Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counsellors.

Psalms 119:47 (Word): And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved.

Psalms 119:35 (Word): Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.

Psalms 119:83 (Parallel theme): For I am become like a bottle in the smoke; yet do I not forget thy statutes.

Psalms 119:176 (Word): I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant; for I do not forget thy commandments.

Psalms 119:141 (Parallel theme): I am small and despised: yet do not I forget thy precepts.

Psalms 119:109 (Word): My soul is continually in my hand: yet do I not forget thy law.

Psalms 119:77 (Word): Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: for thy law is my delight.

Psalms 119:70 (Word): Their heart is as fat as grease; but I delight in thy law.

Proverbs 3:1 (Word): My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

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