

Psalm 119:173

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts.

Analysis

Let thine hand help me (תֵּהַיְיָ יָדֶךָ לְעֹזָרִי) — Yad ('hand') symbolizes divine power and action. Azar ('help, assist, support') acknowledges human inability and divine sufficiency. The basis: **for I have chosen thy precepts** (כִּי פָקָדָךְ בְּחֶרֶת) — ki fiqudekha vacharti). Bachar means 'choose, select, decide for.' The psalmist has made deliberate choice for piqudim (precepts, orders); now he needs God's hand to execute that choice.

This anticipates Philippians 2:12-13: 'Work out your own salvation...for it is God which worketh in you.' Human choice and divine enablement cooperate without contradiction.

Historical Context

The 'hand' of God features prominently in Scripture—delivering Israel from Egypt (Exodus 13:3), sustaining the weak (Psalm 37:24), guiding believers (Psalm 139:10). The verse shows that choosing God's precepts doesn't produce self-sufficiency but greater dependence on divine help to fulfill the choice.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does your daily need for God's 'hand' to help you demonstrate the relationship between human responsibility and divine grace?
2. In what specific area have you chosen God's precepts but now need His hand to empower obedience?
3. How does Jesus's dependence on the Father's hand/power (John 5:19—"The Son can do nothing of himself") model the psalmist's petition?

Interlinear Text

תֵּהַ
H1961 Let thine hand
 H3027

יָדְךָ
H5826 help

לְעַזְבֵּנִי
H3588 thy precepts

כִּי
H6490 me for I have chosen

בְּפָרָתִי
H977

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org