

Psalms 119:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously.

Analysis

Remove from me the way of lying (דָּרְךָ־שְׁקָר בְּסֶר מְתֻפָּה)—Sheqer (falsehood, deception) encompasses both outright lies and living a false life contrary to truth. The derek (way, path) of lying is a lifestyle of self-deception and dishonesty God must actively remove—we cannot remove it ourselves. **And grant me thy law graciously** (לְתַחַת בְּחִנָּה)—The verb chanan (to be gracious, show favor) reveals that even receiving God's torah (instruction, law) is pure grace. We need mercy both to escape deception and to embrace truth.

This couplet exposes two ways: the false way we naturally drift toward, and the true way of God's law we desperately need. The psalmist recognizes that forsaking lies and following Torah both require divine intervention—reformation is grace from start to finish, anticipating Paul's "it is God who works in you" (Philippians 2:13).

Historical Context

Ancient Israel lived surrounded by nations whose gods endorsed ritual prostitution, child sacrifice, and false prophecy—'the way of lying' had cultural momentum. The psalmist's plea reflects living as a covenant minority, constantly tempted to syncretize truth with cultural falsehood, needing God's gracious intervention to maintain distinctiveness.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What 'ways of lying' (self-deception, image management, theological compromise) do you need God to actively remove from your life?
2. How does recognizing that receiving God's law is itself grace transform your view of biblical commandments?
3. In what areas are you trying to remove falsehood through willpower instead of crying for gracious divine intervention?

Interlinear Text

דָּרְךָ וְתַעֲמַד מְלֵאָה צָדְקָה
from me the way of lying Remove and grant me thy law graciously
H1870 H8267 H5493 H4480 H8451 H2603

Additional Cross-References

1 John 1:8 (Parallel theme): If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1 John 2:4 (Word): He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

Revelation 22:15 (Parallel theme): For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Psalms 119:37 (Parallel theme): Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.

Proverbs 30:8 (Parallel theme): Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

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