

Psalm 119:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight.

Analysis

Make me to go in the path of thy commandments—(פָּרַעֲנֵנִי בְּנֵתֵב מִצְוֹתֶיךָ)–Darak (to tread, walk, lead) in Hiphil form means 'cause me to walk'—God must actively lead the psalmist down the nativ (path, pathway) of His mitzvot (commandments). This isn't requesting information but transformation—divine compulsion to walk where flesh resists. **For therein do I delight**—(פִּיְבָּן חֶפְּצָתִי)–Chafets (to delight, take pleasure) reveals motive. The psalmist delights in God's commandments (echoing Psalm 1:2) yet still needs divine enabling to walk them. Delight doesn't automatically produce obedience—grace must make us go.

This paradox is profound: 'Make me go where I delight to go.' The psalmist wants what God wants, yet can't do what he wants without God making him do it. This is the Romans 7 struggle resolved by Romans 8's Spirit-empowerment. Regenerate hearts delight in God's law, but sanctification requires ongoing divine causation. We're not puppets (real delight) nor autonomous (must be made to go)—this is glorious dependence.

Historical Context

The path metaphor dominates Hebrew wisdom literature (Proverbs' two ways). Ancient travelers needed guides for dangerous paths. The psalmist recognizes moral and spiritual life requires divine guidance—we can't navigate righteousness alone. This anticipates Christ as 'the way' (John 14:6) and the Spirit as ongoing guide into truth.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you reconcile delighting in God's commandments while still needing Him to 'make you go' in obedience?
2. Where in your life do you experience the gap between delighting in God's will and actually doing it—and how are you seeking divine enablement?
3. What does this verse teach about the relationship between human desire (delight) and divine sovereignty (make me go) in sanctification?

Interlinear Text

בְּרִיךְנִי בְּנֵת יְהָוָה מְצֻמָּת יְהָוָה

Make me to go in the path of thy commandments

H1869

H5410

H4687

בְּרִיךְנִי

H3588

H0

בְּנֵת יְהָוָה

for therein do I delight

H2654

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 23:3 (Parallel theme): He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Psalms 25:4 (Parallel theme): Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths.

Proverbs 4:11 (Parallel theme): I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.

Philippians 2:13 (Parallel theme): For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Hebrews 13:21 (Parallel theme): Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalms 119:16 (Word): I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

Psalms 119:27 (Parallel theme): Make me to understand the way of thy precepts: so shall I talk of thy wondrous works.

Proverbs 8:20 (Parallel theme): I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment:

1 John 5:3 (Word): For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

Romans 7:22 (Word): For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: