

Psalms 119:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments.

Analysis

And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth (נֹאֲלֶ-תִּצָּל מִפִּי דְבַר־אֱמֶת)—Natsal (to snatch away, deliver, remove) in negative form pleads that God not remove *davar-emet* (the word of truth). *Ad-meod* (utterly, exceedingly) intensifies the plea. The psalmist fears losing ability to testify, either through persecution, death, or spiritual failure. **For I have hoped in thy judgments** (כִּי יָחַל בְּמִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ)—Yachal (to wait, hope, expect) describes confident expectation in God's *mishpatim* (judgments). Hope in God's just governance grounds the request to maintain bold testimony.

The progression is powerful: mercies come (v.41), providing answers for mockers (v.42), but this testimony must be preserved—don't let circumstances, fear, or apostasy silence truthful witness. The 'word of truth' in the mouth is active testimony, not merely internal belief. The psalmist recognizes that maintaining bold confession in hostile contexts requires divine preservation. This anticipates Jesus's promise that the Spirit will give disciples words when brought before authorities (Luke 12:11-12) and Paul's request for prayer 'that I may open my mouth boldly' (Ephesians 6:19).

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern rulers used torture, threats, and execution to silence dissenting religious voices. The psalmist fears having truthful testimony forcibly removed or being so intimidated that confession fails. This fear was realized in

exilic Israel and first-century Christianity, where confessing faith could mean death—making the plea for divine preservation of testimony desperately relevant.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What circumstances, fears, or pressures threaten to remove 'the word of truth' from your mouth—where are you tempted to silence biblical testimony?
2. How does hoping in God's judgments (His just governance of all things) give boldness to maintain faithful witness despite opposition?
3. Where do you need to pray this prayer specifically: 'Don't let me lose my testimony in this relationship, workplace, or cultural moment'?

Interlinear Text

וְאֵל	תֵּצֵ ל	מִפִּי י	דְּבַר	אֶתְּ ת	עַד	מְאֹד	כִּי
H408	And take	out of my mouth	not the word	of truth	H5704	utterly	H3588
	H5337	H6310	H1697	H571		H3966	
לְמִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ		יְהִלֵּתִי:					
in thy judgments		for I have hoped					
H4941		H3176					

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:175 (Judgment): Let my soul live, and it shall praise thee; and let thy judgments help me.

1 Peter 2:23 (Judgment): Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

Psalms 119:52 (Judgment): I remembered thy judgments of old, O LORD; and have comforted myself.

Psalms 119:13 (Judgment): With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.

Ephesians 1:13 (Word): In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

James 1:18 (Word): Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.