

Psalm 119:69

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart.

Analysis

The proud have forged a lie against me: but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart. The verb **forged** (תָּמַד, tafelu) means 'smeared' or 'plastered'—implying deliberate fabrication and persistent slander. **The proud** (זָדִים, zedim) are arrogant rebels against God (see v. 51) who attack His servants through **a lie** (שְׁקָר, sheker)—false accusation meant to destroy reputation.

But I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart—the adversative **but** marks defiant faithfulness despite slander. **With my whole heart** (בְּכָל-לִבּ, bekhol-lev) emphasizes undivided devotion, refusing to let false accusations produce bitterness or compromise. This foreshadows Christ, who suffered false testimony (Matthew 26:59-60) yet remained faithful. Peter exhorts believers similarly: let persecution come for righteousness, not actual wrongdoing (1 Peter 3:13-17).

Historical Context

Slander was a common weapon against the faithful—Joseph falsely accused by Potiphar's wife, Jeremiah charged with treason, Jesus accused of blasphemy, Paul charged with disturbing the peace. The ninth commandment prohibited false witness (Exodus 20:16), recognizing words' power to destroy. The early church faced widespread slander—accused of atheism (rejecting pagan gods), cannibalism (misunderstanding the Lord's Supper), and sedition (confessing Christ as Lord).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when falsely accused—with bitterness, retaliation, compromise, or with wholehearted faithfulness to God?
2. What does it mean practically to 'keep precepts with whole heart' specifically when your reputation is attacked?
3. How can Christ's example of enduring false witness without retaliation strengthen believers facing slander today?

Interlinear Text

לְ בָנָי בְּכָל אֶת־יְהֻדָּה עַל־שְׁמֵךְ יְהֻדָּה טַפְלָה
have forged H5921 a lie H8267 The proud H2086 with my whole heart H3605 H3820

אַתָּה גָּלוּלִים
against me but I will keep thy precepts
H5341 H6490

Additional Cross-References

Job 13:4 (Parallel theme): But ye are forgers of lies, ye are all physicians of no value.

Psalms 119:157 (Parallel theme): Many are my persecutors and mine enemies; yet do I not decline from thy testimonies.

Acts 24:13 (Parallel theme): Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me.

Acts 24:5 (Parallel theme): For we have found this man a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes:

Psalms 119:34 (Parallel theme): Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

Matthew 6:24 (Parallel theme): No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

James 1:8 (Parallel theme): A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

Psalms 119:58 (Parallel theme): I intreated thy favour with my whole heart: be merciful unto me according to thy word.

Psalms 35:11 (Parallel theme): False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not.

Psalms 119:51 (Parallel theme): The proud have had me greatly in derision: yet have I not declined from thy law.