

Psalms 119:74

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because I have hoped in thy word.

Analysis

They that fear thee will be glad when they see me (יִרְאֵיךָ יְהוָה וְיִשְׂמְחוּ)—the Hebrew wordplay on yir'u (fear/see) creates theological depth: those who fear God will see evidence of His faithfulness and rejoice. The psalmist has become a living testimony, a billboard of divine covenant-keeping. **Because I have hoped in thy word** (כִּי לְדַבָּרְךָ יַחְלֵתִי) gives the reason: his persevering trust (yichalti, from yachal, to wait with confident expectation) in God's davar (word/promise) validates the community's own faith.

This principle appears throughout Scripture: one person's tested faith strengthens the congregation (2 Corinthians 1:6, Philippians 1:14). The godly don't rejoice in our perfection but in God's proven faithfulness through our trials.

Historical Context

In Israel's corporate worship culture, individual testimonies strengthened communal faith. The 'God-fearers' (yir'ei YHWH) constituted the faithful remnant who maintained covenant obedience. During persecution, seeing fellow believers endure became mutual encouragement—a theme echoed in Hebrews 10:32-34.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How might your perseverance through trials encourage other believers who are watching your life?
2. What does it mean for your hope in God's Word to be visible enough that others find joy in observing it?
3. Who in your community exemplifies this kind of tested faith that strengthens your own trust in God?

Interlinear Text

! רָאִיךְ	!רָא וְנִי	וְיִשְׁמְךָ חַי	כִּי	לְדַבְּרְךָ
They that fear	when they see	thee will be glad	H3588	in thy word
H3373	H7200	H8055		H1697

יִחְלִתִּי:

me because I have hoped

H3176

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:42 (Word): So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for I trust in thy word.

Psalms 66:16 (Parallel theme): Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul.

Psalms 119:79 (Parallel theme): Let those that fear thee turn unto me, and those that have known thy testimonies.

