

Psalms 119:79

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Let those that fear thee turn unto me, and those that have known thy testimonies.

Analysis

Let those that fear thee turn unto me—(בָּשְׁבוּ לִי יְרָאֶיךָ) yashuvu (turn/return) could mean 'turn to me for fellowship' or 'return to me after distancing.' The yir'ekha (those who fear thee) are the covenant community. **And those that have known thy testimonies** (וַיִּדְעָו עֲדָתֶיךָ) defines them further: those who yod'ei (know) God's edot (testimonies/covenant stipulations) through relationship, not mere information.

The psalmist desires community with the faithful—those whose orthodoxy (right doctrine) produces orthopraxy (right living). This anticipates Jesus's prayer for unity among believers (John 17:21) and the apostolic emphasis on fellowship with like-minded saints (1 John 1:3).

Historical Context

In times of persecution, the godly remnant needed mutual encouragement. The 'God-fearers' formed the core of faithful Israel, maintaining Torah obedience when the majority compromised. Post-exilic Judaism emphasized community identity around Scripture knowledge—a pattern continued in synagogue culture.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Who in your life both fears God and knows His Word deeply enough to sharpen your faith?
2. How intentionally do you seek fellowship with those who make Scripture their authority?
3. What role does community play in sustaining your faithfulness during spiritual isolation?

Interlinear Text

עדתיך:

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:63 (Parallel theme): I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.

Psalms 142:7 (Parallel theme): Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name: the righteous shall compass me about; for thou shalt deal bountifully with me

Psalms 7:7 (Parallel theme): So shall the congregation of the people compass thee about; for their sakes therefore return thou on high.

Psalms 119:74 (Parallel theme): They that fear thee will be glad when they see me: because I have hoped in thy word.

