

# Psalms 119:81

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My soul fainteth for thy salvation: but I hope in thy word.

## Analysis

**My soul fainteth for thy salvation** (כַּלְתָּה נַפְשִׁי לְתִשׁוּעָתְךָ)—kaletah (fainteth/fails/pines away) conveys extreme longing, even physical weakness. Naphshi (my soul/being) yearns for teshu'atekha (thy salvation/deliverance). This Kaph (כ) stanza (vv. 81-88) depicts a believer at the breaking point yet clinging to hope. **But I hope in thy word** (לְדַבְרְךָ יִחְלָתִי) contrasts present agony with confident waiting: yichalti (I hope/wait) anchors on God's davar (word/promise).

This mirrors Simeon who waited for the consolation of Israel (Luke 2:25) and Anna who looked for redemption (Luke 2:38)—both anchored hope in God's Word despite prolonged delay. Faith trusts the promise-keeper when deliverance tarries.

## Historical Context

The Kaph section reflects the lament tradition found throughout Psalms—honest complaint combined with unwavering trust. Post-exilic Israel waited centuries for the Messiah while clinging to prophetic promises. This 'patient waiting' became a defining mark of biblical faith (Habakkuk 2:3, Hebrews 10:36-37).

## Related Passages

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

## Study Questions

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1. When has your soul 'fainted' for God's deliverance while still choosing to hope in His Word?
2. How do you maintain hope during prolonged waiting when relief seems perpetually delayed?
3. What promises in Scripture anchor your soul when circumstances drain your strength?

## Interlinear Text

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פָּלֵתָהּ	לְתִשׁוּעָתָךְ	בְּפֶשׁ י	לְדִבְרְךָ	יִחְלֵתִי:
fainteth	for thy salvation	CAPH My soul	in thy word	but I hope
H3615	H8668	H5315	H1697	H3176

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 84:2** (Parallel theme): My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

**Psalms 119:40** (Parallel theme): Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness.

**Psalms 119:114** (Word): Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.

**Psalms 73:26** (Parallel theme): My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

**Song of Solomon 5:8**: I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I am sick of love.