

Psalms 119:88

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Quicken me after thy lovingkindness; so shall I keep the testimony of thy mouth.

Analysis

Quicken me after thy lovingkindness (כְּחַיֵּנִי אַחֲרֵי חַסְדְּךָ)—chayeni (quicken/give life to me) from chayah (to live, revive) appears throughout Psalm 119 as the great need. Ke'chasdekha (according to thy lovingkindness) grounds the appeal in chesed (covenant love/loyal kindness)—not on merit but on God's faithful character. **So shall I keep the testimony of thy mouth** (וְאֶשְׁמְרָה עֵדוּת פִּיךָ) states the purpose: ve'eshmerah (so I shall keep/guard) the edut (testimony) from pika (thy mouth).

This reveals the spiritual order: divine quickening precedes obedience. We cannot keep God's Word in our own strength—we need Spirit-empowered resurrection life. Paul prays similarly: 'That ye might be filled with all the fullness of God' (Ephesians 3:19). The Kaph stanza closes where it began—desperate for God's intervention, anchored in covenant love.

Historical Context

The concept of God 'quickenning' appears throughout Scripture (Psalm 71:20, 80:18, 143:11). It anticipates the New Covenant promise of the life-giving Spirit (Ezekiel 37:14, John 6:63, Romans 8:11). The post-exilic community needed not just physical restoration but spiritual revival—new life from God to empower Torah obedience.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. In what areas of spiritual deadness do you need God to 'quicken' you according to His lovingkindness?
2. How does recognizing that obedience flows from divine life change your approach to keeping God's Word?
3. What connection do you see between experiencing God's covenant love and gaining power to obey His testimony?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| בְּחֶסֶדְךָ | חַיֵּי נִי | אֲשַׁמְּךָ ה | עַד וְת | פִּיךָ: |
| me after thy lovingkindness | Quicken | so shall I keep | the testimony | of thy mouth |
| H2617 | H2421 | H8104 | H5715 | H6310 |

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 25:10 (Parallel theme): All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Psalms 119:159 (Parallel theme): Consider how I love thy precepts: quicken me, O LORD, according to thy lovingkindness.

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

Psalms 119:25 (Parallel theme): My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word.

Psalms 119:2 (Parallel theme): Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.

Psalms 78:5 (Witness): For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children:

Psalms 119:146 (Parallel theme): I cried unto thee; save me, and I shall keep thy testimonies.

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