

Psalms 143:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness.

Analysis

Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness. This verse expresses desire for divine instruction in God's will, grounded in covenant relationship and empowered by God's Spirit. David seeks not merely to know God's will intellectually but to DO it practically, with the Holy Spirit leading him into moral integrity and right living.

"Teach me to do thy will" (לַמְדֵנִי לַעֲשׂוֹת רְצוֹנְךָ/lamdeni la'asot retzonekha) begins with petition for instruction. Lamad means to learn, be taught, trained, disciplined. Asah means to do, make, accomplish, perform. Ratzon means will, desire, pleasure, purpose. David asks for practical training in performing God's will, not mere intellectual knowledge but skill in living obediently.

This emphasis on DOING God's will distinguishes biblical faith from mere theological knowledge. Jesus warned: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). James 1:22 commands: "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only." Knowledge must lead to obedience, theology to practice.

"For thou art my God" (כִּי־אַתָּה אֱלֹהַי/ki-atah Elohai) provides relational foundation. Elohai means "my God"—personal, covenantal, possessive. Because of established relationship, David can confidently request instruction. A servant learns his master's will; a child learns her father's desires. Covenant relationship creates

context for learning obedience—not oppressive external demands but loving response to gracious relationship.

"Thy spirit is good" (רוּחְךָ טוֹבָה/ruchakha tovah) acknowledges the Holy Spirit's character and role. Ruach means spirit, wind, breath—God's Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. Tov means good, pleasant, beneficial, morally excellent. God's Spirit is inherently good—in character, influence, and effect. This statement anticipates the Spirit's New Testament role as teacher, guide, sanctifier.

"Lead me into the land of uprightness" (תַּנְחֵנִי בְּאֶרֶץ מִשׁוֹר/tancheni be'erezt mishor) concludes with petition for guidance. Nachah means to lead, guide, conduct. Eretz means land, country, territory. Mishor means level place, uprightness, equity, straightness. David asks to be led into territory characterized by moral integrity, righteous living, level path without stumbling. This metaphor echoes Israel's entrance into Promised Land—crossing from wilderness into land of blessing under divine guidance.

Historical Context

The petition to be taught God's will reflects biblical emphasis on divine instruction. Psalm 25:4-5 prays: "Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation." Psalm 86:11 requests: "Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name."

Torah (instruction, teaching, law) was God's gift to Israel, revealing His will for His people. Psalm 119, the longest psalm, celebrates God's law as guide for living. Verse 105 declares: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." God's revealed will in Scripture provides instruction for righteous living.

The reference to "thy spirit" is significant Old Testament testimony to the Holy Spirit. While Old Testament revelation of the Spirit is less developed than New Testament, the Spirit appears throughout: hovering over creation waters (Genesis 1:2), empowering leaders like Moses, Joshua, judges, kings (Numbers 11:25; Judges 6:34; 1 Samuel 16:13), inspiring prophets (2 Peter 1:21), and promising

future outpouring (Joel 2:28-29).

Jesus taught His disciples that the Spirit would guide them: "When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13). The Spirit's role includes teaching: "The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things" (John 14:26). Romans 8:14 links Spirit and guidance: "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."

The "land of uprightness" imagery recalls Israel's promised land—physical territory representing spiritual blessing. Just as God led Israel through wilderness into Canaan, He leads believers from sin's bondage into righteousness' freedom, from wilderness wandering into settled blessing, from moral confusion into integrity's clarity.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between knowing God's will intellectually versus being taught to DO His will practically?
2. How does the Holy Spirit teach and lead believers into God's will today?
3. What role does Scripture play in learning and doing God's will, and how does the Spirit work through Scripture?
4. What does the 'land of uprightness' represent, and how does one enter this territory of moral integrity?
5. In what areas of life do you most need to pray 'teach me to do thy will,' and what would obedient response look like?

Interlinear Text

רוּחְךָ	אֵל וְהוּא יְיָ	אֶתְּ הָ	כִּי	רְצוֹנְךָ	לַעֲשֵׂה וְתִ	לִמְדֵּךְ נִין
thy spirit	for thou art my God			thy will	me to do	Teach
H7307	H430	H859	H3588	H7522	H6213	H3925
מִישׁוֹר:	בְּאֶרֶץ	תִּנְחֵנִי	טוֹבָה הִ			
of uprightness	me into the land	lead	is good			
H4334	H776	H5148	H2896			

Additional Cross-References

John 14:26 (Spirit): But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Hebrews 13:21 (Good): Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Psalms 23:3 (Parallel theme): He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Nehemiah 9:20 (Spirit): Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, and withheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst.

Psalms 119:12 (Parallel theme): Blessed art thou, O LORD: teach me thy statutes.

Romans 15:13 (Spirit): Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

2 Timothy 1:7 (Spirit): For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

1 John 2:27 (Parallel theme): But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

Psalms 140:6 (References God): I said unto the LORD, Thou art my God: hear the voice of my supplications, O LORD.

Psalms 31:14 (References God): But I trusted in thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my God.

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