

Psalms 25:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

Analysis

Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. This verse intensifies the previous petition, adding urgency and comprehensive dependence on God. The structure moves from request (lead, teach) to reason (God of salvation) to posture (waiting all day).

"Lead me" (hadrikheni, הַדְרִיכֵנִי) comes from darak (דָּרַךְ), meaning to tread, march, or guide. The causative form means "cause me to walk" or "guide me." This isn't passive following but active guidance—God as shepherd directing the path, as commander leading troops, as father teaching a child to walk. It assumes both God's active involvement and the psalmist's responsive obedience.

"In thy truth" (be'amittekha, בְּאָמִתְךָ) uses emet (אֶמֶת), meaning truth, faithfulness, reliability, stability. God's truth is not abstract proposition but reliable reality—what is ultimately real and trustworthy. To be led in God's truth means walking in reality as God defines it, aligned with what is genuinely and eternally true rather than temporary appearances or cultural opinions.

"For thou art the God of my salvation" (Elohei yish'i, אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׁעֵי) provides the theological foundation for this petition. Yesha (יִשְׁעָה) means salvation, deliverance, rescue. God is not merely a potential savior but MY salvation—personal, possessed, experienced. This is why David can confidently ask for guidance; the God who saved him will surely guide him.

"On thee do I wait all the day" (kal-hayom qivitikha, כל-היום קויתיך) expresses sustained, continuous hope and expectation. Qavah (קַוָּה) means to wait, hope, expect with confident anticipation. "All the day" emphasizes that this isn't momentary petition but constant posture—morning to evening, consistently throughout life, the psalmist maintains hopeful expectation toward God.

Historical Context

The concept of God's "truth" (emet) is central to Old Testament theology. When Moses asked to see God's glory, God proclaimed His name: "the LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth" (Exodus 34:6). Truth is part of God's essential character, inseparable from His being.

Jesus later declared: "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6), embodying the truth David sought. John's Gospel emphasizes that truth came through Jesus Christ (John 1:17), grace and truth together. The Holy Spirit is called "the Spirit of truth" (John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13), who guides believers into all truth.

David's patient waiting contrasts with Saul's impulsive actions. When facing Philistine threat, Saul couldn't wait for Samuel and offered sacrifice himself, resulting in God's rejection (1 Samuel 13:8-14). David learned to wait on God's timing—whether waiting years between anointing and kingship, or waiting for God to deal with Saul rather than taking vengeance himself.

The posture of waiting appears throughout Psalms. Psalm 27:14: "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart." Psalm 37:7: "Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him." Isaiah 40:31: "They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength." This waiting is not passive resignation but active, hopeful expectation of God's intervention.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What is the relationship between being led 'in God's truth' and being taught by God, and why are both necessary?
2. How does recognizing God as 'the God of MY salvation' (personal experience) give confidence to ask for ongoing guidance?
3. What is the difference between waiting on God 'all the day' (continuous posture) versus occasionally asking God for help in crisis?
4. In what areas of life are you tempted to rush ahead rather than waiting for God's truth and guidance?
5. How does Jesus as 'the truth' (John 14:6) fulfill David's prayer to be led in God's truth?

Interlinear Text

אֱלֹהִים	אַתָּה	בְּאַמְתָּה	בְּנִי	לְלַמֵּד	בְּנִי	פָּדֹר	יְכָנֵן
Lead H1869	me in thy truth H571	and teach H3925		H3588	H859	me for thou art the God H430	
וְיַשְׁעֵנִי	אַוְתָּה	וְיִתְּחַנֵּן	כִּי	כָּל	כִּי	כִּי	
of my salvation H3468		on thee do I wait H6960		H3605		all the day H3117	

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 8:34 (Parallel theme): Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

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

Isaiah 30:18 (References God): And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.

Revelation 7:17 (References God): For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

John 14:26 (Parallel theme): 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.

John 16:13 (Truth): Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Psalms 119:66 (Parallel theme): Teach me good judgment and knowledge: for I have believed thy commandments.

Psalms 79:9 (Salvation): Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake.

Psalms 88:1 (Salvation): O LORD God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee:

1 John 2:27 (Truth): 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.