

Psalm 27:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.

Analysis

The incomplete sentence 'I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living' expresses that faith prevented despair. Believing God's goodness would be experienced 'in the land of the living' (this life, not just heaven) sustained David through trials. Reformed theology emphasizes that faith in God's promises preserves believers from spiritual collapse. The expectation of experiencing God's goodness temporally (not just eternally) provides hope for present suffering.

Historical Context

David wrote this during severe persecution when circumstances contradicted God's promises. Faith in God's character and covenant, not present circumstances, preserved him from fainting. This models perseverance of the saints through trials.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does expecting to see God's goodness in this life sustain you through present trials?
 2. What would cause you to 'faint' spiritually if you stopped believing God's promises?

Interlinear Text

בְּטוּבְךָ הַיְהָ אֶלְעָלָה	לְרָא וְתַּבְּנֵת אֶלְעָלָה	לְרָא וְתַּבְּנֵת אֶלְעָלָה	לְרָא וְתַּבְּנֵת אֶלְעָלָה	לְרָא וְתַּבְּנֵת אֶלְעָלָה
I had fainted unless	I had believed	to see	the goodness	of the LORD
H3884	H539	H7200	H2898	H3068

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 142:5 (References Lord): I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.

2 Corinthians 4:16 (Parallel theme): For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

Psalm 56:3 (Faith): What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.

Psalms 31:19 (Faith): Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!

Psalms 56:13 (Parallel theme): For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt not thou deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?

Psalms 42:5 (Parallel theme): Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.

Job 28:13 (Parallel theme): Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living.

2 Corinthians 4:1 (Parallel theme): Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not;

Jeremiah 11:19 (Parallel theme): But I was like a lamb or an ox that is brought to the slaughter; and I knew not that they had devised devices against me, saying, Let us destroy the tree with the fruit thereof, and let us cut him off from the land of the living, that his name may be no more remembered.

Ephesians 2:8 (Faith): For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

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