

Psalm 27:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee,
Thy face, LORD, will I seek.

Analysis

The dialogue 'When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, LORD, will I seek' depicts divine initiative and human response. God first commands 'Seek my face'; the heart responds in obedience. Reformed theology emphasizes that seeking God is both commanded and enabled—God's effectual call produces the desire and ability to seek Him. The repetition of 'face' emphasizes personal relationship, not just doctrinal knowledge. True seeking is responsive, not autonomous.

Historical Context

In Israel's worship, 'seeking God's face' meant coming into His presence at the tabernacle/temple. This required ritual preparation and obedient living. Spiritually, it meant whole-hearted devotion to knowing and obeying God.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's command to 'seek My face' empower your seeking?

2. What does 'seeking God's face' mean beyond formal religious activities?

Interlinear Text

ל בְּ אֶמְרָת לְבָבִי	אָבְקַשׁ:	פָּנָים יְבָרֶכֶת	אָתָּה
H0 said H559	my heart H3820	When thou saidst Seek H1245	unto thee Thy face H6440 H853
unto thee Thy face H6440	LORD H3068	When thou saidst Seek H1245	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 105:4 (References Lord): Seek the LORD, and his strength: seek his face evermore.

Psalms 119:58 (Parallel theme): I intreated thy favour with my whole heart: be merciful unto me according to thy word.

Psalms 24:6 (Parallel theme): This is the generation of them that seek him, that seek thy face, O Jacob. Selah.

Hosea 5:15 (Parallel theme): I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early.

Isaiah 45:19 (References Lord): I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.