

# Psalm 38:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

My heart panteth, my strength faileth me: as for the light of mine eyes, it also is gone from me.

## Analysis

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**My heart panteth, my strength faileth me: as for the light of mine eyes, it also is gone from me.** Three losses: heart panteth (רַקֵּד, sachar, whirls/races), strength faileth (קָוֵחַ, koach, vigor depleted), light of eyes gone (dimmed vision). The vital centers—emotional, physical, perceptual—all compromised.

The panting heart suggests either fear or exhaustion. The depleted koach echoes Samson's loss of strength (Judges 16:17). The dimmed eyes recall Eli's failing vision before judgment fell (1 Samuel 3:2). David experiences compound loss—but addresses it all to God ('before thee' v.9), transforming complaint into confession. Even in darkness, he speaks toward the Light.

## Historical Context

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Loss of vision was particularly dreaded in ancient world, associated with old age, divine judgment, or demon possession. Warriors depended on keen eyesight. A king whose eyes 'went dark' would be seen as unfit to rule. David's vulnerability here is profound—he risks political consequences by admitting weakness.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. When your spiritual 'heart is panting' and 'strength fails,' where do you turn —inward to manage or upward to confess?
2. How do you maintain hope when the 'light of your eyes' (clarity, vision, direction) has gone dark?
3. What does David's willingness to voice total depletion to God teach about authentic prayer versus 'victorious' pretense?

## Interlinear Text

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לֵב	נִזְבֵּן	כִּחִים	אֲוֹרֶת	לֵב	עֵינָן
My heart	panteth	faileth	my strength	me as for the light	of mine eyes
H3820	H5503	H5800	H3581	H216	H5869
וְאַתְּ	אַיְלָה	אֲתִי	אֲתִי		
H1571	it	also is gone	H854		
H1992			H369		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 6:7** (Parallel theme): Mine eye is consumed because of grief; it waxeth old because of all mine enemies.

**Psalms 88:9** (Parallel theme): Mine eye mourneth by reason of affliction: LORD, I have called daily upon thee, I have stretched out my hands unto thee.

**Psalms 69:3** (Parallel theme): I am weary of my crying: my throat is dried: mine eyes fail while I wait for my God.