

Psalms 38:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Lord, all my desire is before thee; and my groaning is not hid from thee.

Analysis

Lord, all my desire is before thee; and my groaning is not hid from thee.

The psalm pivots—after eight verses of lament, David addresses Lord (אֲדֹנָי, Adonai, sovereign master) directly. His desire (תַּאֲוָה, ta'avah, longing) and groaning (אֲנָחָה, anachah, sighing) are before God—fully exposed yet fully known.

The shift from description to direct address marks turning from self-absorption to God-focus. 'Before thee' implies both presence and transparency—nothing hidden, no pretense. Though David's friends have abandoned him (v.11), God sees and hears everything. The 'desire' likely includes longing for restoration, healing, vindication—God knows even unspoken petitions (Romans 8:27).

Historical Context

This verse marks the structural center of the psalm (v.9 of 22). Hebrew poetry often places key themes at the midpoint. Here, the pivot from despair to hope centers on God's omniscient presence. David moves from describing his symptoms to addressing the Divine Physician who sees beyond symptoms to soul-sickness.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What unspoken 'desires' and 'groanings' are you reluctant to voice but God already knows?
2. How does God's complete knowledge of your inner state bring comfort rather than fear when you're in sin?
3. What would change if you lived constantly aware that all your desires are 'before' God's face?

Interlinear Text

אֲדֹנָי	נִגְדָךְ	כָּל	תַּאֲוָתִי	!	אֵנֶכֶתִּי	מִמֶּנִּי	לֹא
Lord	H5048	H3605	all my desire		is before thee and my groaning	H4480	H3808
H136			H8378		H585		

נִסְתָּתְרָה:
is not hid
H5641

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 10:17 (References Lord): LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:

Psalms 6:6 (Parallel theme): I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with my tears.

2 Corinthians 5:2 (Parallel theme): For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven:

Psalms 102:5 (Parallel theme): By reason of the voice of my groaning my bones cleave to my skin.

John 1:48 (Parallel theme): Nathanael saith unto him, Whence knowest thou me? Jesus answered and said unto him, Before that Philip called thee, when thou wast under the fig tree, I saw thee.

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