

Psalms 40:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O LORD: let thy lovingkindness and thy truth continually preserve me.

Analysis

David transitions from declaration to petition, asking God not to withhold His 'tender mercies' (rachamim, from the Hebrew word for 'womb,' suggesting motherly compassion). The parallel request for lovingkindness and truth to 'continually preserve me' connects his public testimony with his ongoing need for divine protection.

Historical Context

This prayer pattern--recounting past faithfulness before asking for continued help--appears throughout the Psalter, teaching believers to ground petitions in God's proven character rather than making demands based on presumed worthiness.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does remembering God's past tender mercies shape your current prayers?
2. What connection exists between publicly declaring God's faithfulness and receiving His continued protection?

Interlinear Text

אֶתְּ הַ	יְהוָה הַ	לֹא	תִכְלֶה אֶ	בְּחַסְדֶּךָ יְיָ	מִחַן נִי
H859	from me O LORD	H3808	Withhold	not thou thy tender mercies	H4480
	H3068		H3607	H7356	
חֲסִידְךָ	וְאֱמֶתְךָ	תָּמִיד	יִצְרוּנִי:		
let thy lovingkindness	and thy truth	continually	preserve		
H2617	H571	H8548	H5341		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 43:3 (Truth): O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles.

Psalms 57:3 (Truth): He shall send from heaven, and save me from the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth.

Psalms 23:6 (References Lord): Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Psalms 61:7 (Truth): He shall abide before God for ever: O prepare mercy and truth, which may preserve him.

Proverbs 20:28 (Truth): Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy.

Psalms 69:16 (References Lord): Hear me, O LORD; for thy lovingkindness is good: turn unto me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies.

Psalms 69:13 (Truth): But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O LORD, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.

Hebrews 5:7 (Parallel theme): Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org