

# Psalm 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

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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

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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

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**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

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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

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מְתַכֵּל אַל־יְהִי לְךָ נַפְשָׁךְ  
from me O LORD Withhold not thou thy tender mercies  
H859 H3808 H3607 H7356 H4480

לְאַמְתָּנָה תְּמִימָה יְהִי לְךָ מִצְדָּךְ  
let thy lovingkindness and thy truth continually preserve  
H2617 H571 H8548 H5341

## Additional Cross-References

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**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;

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