

Psalms 71:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

O God, be not far from me: O my God, make haste for my help.

Analysis

The urgent prayer 'O God, be not far from me' seeks divine presence and intervention. 'Make haste for my help' combines distance imagery (be near) with speed imagery (hurry). The repetition emphasizes desperation—not casual request but urgent plea. God's nearness and swift action are essential for deliverance. This models persistent, bold prayer that doesn't give up despite circumstances. Jesus taught similar persistence in the parable of the importunate widow (Luke 18:1-8).

Historical Context

David's cave experiences, surrounded by enemies, gave visceral understanding of needing God's near presence and quick intervention. Prayer wasn't theoretical but born of genuine danger.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How can you maintain urgent, persistent prayer without becoming demanding or presumptuous?
2. What does God's nearness provide that differs from His omnipresence?

3. How do you balance desperate petition with patient trust in God's perfect timing?

Interlinear Text

יְיָ	אֵל	תִּתְּנָהּ	קִי	מִמֶּנִּי	יְיָ	אֵל	לְעֹזְרִי	חֵשָׁה:
O God	H408	be not far	H4480	O God	for my help	make haste		
H430		H7368		H430	H5833	H2363		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 35:22 (Parallel theme): This thou hast seen, O LORD: keep not silence: O Lord, be not far from me.

Psalms 10:1 (Parallel theme): Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?

Psalms 22:11 (Parallel theme): Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.