

Psalms 71:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more.

Analysis

But I will hope continually, and will yet praise thee more and more. This verse expresses unyielding commitment to hope and escalating praise despite circumstances. 'I will hope continually' (va'ani tamid ayachel, **וְאַנְיִת תָּמִיד אַיְחֵל**) uses 'continually' (tamid, **תָּמִיד**), the same word describing the perpetual offerings in the temple—hope becomes a constant sacrifice, never ceasing regardless of delays in deliverance. This isn't passive wishful thinking but active, persistent expectation that God will act.

The second half intensifies: 'will yet praise thee more and more' (vehosaphti al kol tehilatekha, **וְהוֹסֵפְתִּי עַל-כָּל-תְּהִלָּתֶךָ**), literally 'I will add to all your praise.' The psalmist commits to increasing praise—as God demonstrates more faithfulness, praise expands proportionally. This creates an upward spiral: hope produces perseverance, which encounters more of God's faithfulness, which generates increased praise, which strengthens hope. The Christian life should follow this trajectory—growth in grace produces growth in worship.

This verse anticipates Christian hope theology. Romans 5:3-5 describes how tribulation produces perseverance, which produces character, which produces hope that 'maketh not ashamed.' The Christian life isn't static but progressive—we move 'from glory to glory' (2 Corinthians 3:18), 'from faith to faith' (Romans 1:17). Our praise should likewise escalate. Revelation depicts heavenly worship as continuous and ever-increasing—the four living creatures 'rest not day and night' in worship (Revelation 4:8), and the twenty-four elders continually cast their

crowns before the throne (Revelation 4:10). This psalm captures that eternal worship pattern in present experience.

Historical Context

The concept of 'continual' (tamid) offerings shaped Israel's worship. Exodus 29:38-42 commanded daily morning and evening sacrifices—the tamid offerings that maintained covenant relationship. Numbers 28:3-8 details these perpetual offerings that were never to cease. The lampstand in the tabernacle burned continually (Leviticus 24:2), symbolizing Israel's uninterrupted witness. The incense altar sent fragrant smoke perpetually before God (Exodus 30:7-8), representing unceasing prayer.

This liturgical rhythm taught Israel that relationship with God wasn't occasional or crisis-based but ongoing and constant. The psalmist applies this principle to hope and praise—they become personal 'perpetual offerings,' maintaining spiritual vitality regardless of circumstances. Just as the temple never stopped offering sacrifices, believers never stop hoping and praising. This principle sustained Jewish faith through exile when literal temple sacrifices ceased—prayer and Torah study replaced sacrifices, maintaining the principle of continual devotion.

The early church inherited this pattern. Acts 2:46-47 describes believers 'continuing daily with one accord in the temple' and 'praising God' constantly. Monastic traditions developed 'liturgy of the hours'—structured prayers throughout day and night, ensuring praise never ceased. The Protestant Reformation democratized this—all believers, not just monks, are called to continual hope and praise. Whether through structured prayer, spontaneous worship, or the 'sacrifice of praise' (Hebrews 13:15) offered in difficult circumstances, Christians maintain the tamid principle—never-ending devotion to God.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What would 'continual hope' look like practically in your daily routine and thought patterns?
2. How can you cultivate escalating praise ('more and more') rather than stagnant or declining worship?
3. What circumstances tempt you to cease hoping, and how can you maintain hope despite them?
4. How does viewing hope and praise as 'perpetual offerings' transform them from feelings to disciplines?
5. In what ways has your praise increased as you've witnessed more of God's faithfulness over time?

Interlinear Text

תְּהִלְתָּה: כָּל עַל ! הַסְּפִת תִּאֵחֶל תִּתְּמִימֶד אֲנִי

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 130:7 (Hope): Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.

1 John 3:3 (Hope): And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

Lamentations 3:26 (Hope): It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.

Psalms 43:5 (Resurrection): Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

Hebrews 10:35 (Parallel theme): Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

Psalms 71:6 (Resurrection): By thee have I been holden up from the womb: thou art he that took me out of my mother's bowels: my praise shall be continually of thee.

Lamentations 3:21 (Hope): This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.

1 Peter 1:13 (Hope): Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Philippians 1:9 (Parallel theme): And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;

Job 13:15 (Parallel theme): Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.

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