

Psalm 75:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Lift not up your horn on high: speak not with a stiff neck.

Analysis

God continues His warning: "Lift not up your horn on high: speak not with a stiff neck" (Hebrew al-tarimu la-marom qarn-kem t-dab-ru b-tzavvar ataq). "Lift not up your horn" repeats verse 4's warning against pride. "Stiff neck" adds verbal arrogance to postural pride. Ancient Near Eastern imagery: raised horn = aggressive pride, stiff neck = refusal to submit. The verse warns that arrogant words accompany proud attitudes. Speech reveals heart condition.

Historical Context

Israel was repeatedly called "stiff-necked" for covenant rebellion (Exodus 32:9, 33:3,5, Deuteronomy 9:6,13). The phrase indicates stubborn refusal to yield to God's authority. Proverbs 16:18 warns pride precedes destruction. James 3:1-12 addresses tongue's power for good or evil. Acts 7:51 applies this: "You stiff-necked people...always resist the Holy Spirit." Pride expresses itself verbally.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How do your words reveal pride or humility in your heart?

2. What does "stiff neck" (refusal to bow before God) look like practically in modern life?
 3. How did Christ's humility in speech and action (never grasping or boasting) model proper use of words?

Interlinear Text

אָל	בְּצֹו אָר	צְרָבָר וְ	לְפָרָר וּמָ	קְרָנְכָּם	תְּרִמְמָה	לְפָרָר יְמָה	אָל
H408	Lift not up	on high	your horn	speak	neck	not with a stiff	
	H7311	H4791	H7161	H1696	H6677	H6277	

Additional Cross-References

Acts 7:51 (Parallel theme): Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

Isaiah 48:4 (Parallel theme): Because I knew that thou art obstinate, and thy neck is an iron sinew, and thy brow brass;

Exodus 32:9 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:

Deuteronomy 31:27 (Parallel theme): For I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the LORD; and how much more after my death?

Ezekiel 2:4 (Parallel theme): For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD.

2 Chronicles 30:8 (Parallel theme): Now be ye not stiffnecked, as your fathers were, but yield yourselves unto the LORD, and enter into his sanctuary, which he hath sanctified for ever: and serve the LORD your God, that the fierceness of his wrath may turn away from you.