

Psalms 77:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search.

Analysis

I call to remembrance my song in the night (נֶגִנָה—אָזַכָּה תִּגְנַתִּי בְּלִילָה) neginah refers to stringed instrument music or song. The psalmist recalls past nights of worship and joy, contrasting with the present night of anguish (v.2). Memory becomes complex: remembering God brought trouble (v.3), yet remembering past praise offers a lifeline. This demonstrates faith's struggle to reconnect present suffering with past experience of God's goodness.

I commune with mine own heart (שִׁיחָה—עַמְלָבָבִי אֲשִׁיחָה) Siach appears again (see v.3)—meditative reflection. The psalmist engages in internal dialogue, examining his own soul. **My spirit made diligent search** (רִוחִי עִמְפָשָׁה) uses chaphas (פָשָׁה), meaning to search carefully, investigate thoroughly. This is spiritual self-examination, probing the soul's condition and questioning assumptions. Contemplative introspection precedes the breakthrough of verse 10.

Historical Context

The practice of night vigil combined prayer, meditation, and song (Psalms 42:8, 63:6, 119:62). Paul and Silas sang hymns at midnight in prison (Acts 16:25), demonstrating that songs in darkness express defiant faith. The Hebrew concept of lev (heart) encompasses intellect, emotion, and will—the whole inner person. Communing with one's heart means honest self-assessment before God, not mere emotionalism.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What role does remembering past worship play when present circumstances make praise difficult?
2. How does healthy introspection ('communing with one's heart') differ from destructive rumination?
3. What 'songs in the night' from your own history can you recall when faith feels distant?

Interlinear Text

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|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------|---------|---------------------|--|
| לִבְבָּם | בְּלִילָה | נְגִינַת | אַזְכֵב | הָ | |
| I call to remembrance | my song | in the night | H5973 | with mine own heart | |
| H2142 | H5058 | H3915 | | H3824 | |
| אֲשֶׁר יִקְהַ | יִמְחַפֵּשׁ | רֹוחַנִי | | | |
| I commune | made diligent search | and my spirit | | | |
| H7878 | H2664 | H7307 | | | |

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 42:8 (Parallel theme): Yet the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.

Psalms 4:4 (Parallel theme): Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.

Acts 16:25 (Parallel theme): And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

Ecclesiastes 1:16 (Parallel theme): I communed with mine own heart, saying, Lo, I am come to great estate, and have gotten more wisdom than all they that have been before me in Jerusalem: yea, my heart had great experience of wisdom and knowledge.

Lamentations 3:40 (Parallel theme): Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the LORD.

Job 35:10 (Parallel theme): But none saith, Where is God my maker, who giveth songs in the night;

Job 10:2 (Parallel theme): I will say unto God, Do not condemn me; shew me wherefore thou contendest with me.

Jonah 1:2 (Parallel theme): Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.