

Psalms 86:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name.

Analysis

David prays, "Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name" (Hebrew horeni YHWH darkekha ahalekh ba-amitekha yached levavi l-yir'at shemekha). "Teach me" acknowledges that God's ways must be revealed, not discovered autonomously. "Walk in thy truth" connects doctrine to conduct—truth isn't merely believed but lived. "Unite my heart" (Hebrew yached levavi, literally "make my heart one") confesses our divided affections and prays for singleness of devotion. The "fear" of God's name is reverent awe leading to worship and obedience. This verse models lifelong discipleship: learning God's ways, walking in truth, seeking undivided love.

Historical Context

David wrote as king yet remained a learner, modeling humble teachability regardless of status or spiritual maturity. Ancient Near Eastern kings claimed autonomous wisdom; David acknowledges dependence on divine instruction. Jesus later promises the Spirit would "teach you all things" (John 14:26), fulfilling this prayer for new covenant believers.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. In what areas of life are you pursuing your own way rather than seeking God's teaching?
2. What evidence of a "divided heart" do you see in competing loves and loyalties?
3. How does the Holy Spirit fulfill God's promise to teach and unite our hearts in reverential fear?

Interlinear Text

תִּלְמַד	יְהוָה הוּא	דִּרְכְּךָ	אֶהְיֶה	בְּאֱמֶתֶךָ	יְהוָה ד	לִבִּי י
Teach	O LORD	me thy way	I will walk	in thy truth	unite	my heart
H3384	H3068	H1870	H1980	H571	H3161	H3824

לִירֵא	שְׁמֶךָ:
to fear	thy name
H3372	H8034

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 5:8 (References Lord): Lead me, O LORD, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before my face.

Psalms 119:33 (References Lord): Teach me, O LORD, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.

Psalms 25:12 (References Lord): What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.

Psalms 27:11 (References Lord): Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies.

Job 34:32 (Parallel theme): That which I see not teach thou me: if I have done iniquity, I will do no more.

Psalms 26:3 (Truth): For thy lovingkindness is before mine eyes: and I have walked in thy truth.

2 John 1:4 (Truth): I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth, as we have received a commandment from the Father.

Psalms 119:73 (Parallel theme): Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.

Colossians 3:17 (References Lord): And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Ephesians 4:21 (Truth): If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

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