

Psalms 9:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

Analysis

And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee. This verse reveals the relationship between knowing God and trusting God. David establishes a causal connection: those who know God's name will trust Him, because His track record demonstrates faithfulness to those who seek Him.

"They that know thy name" (veyivtechu vekha yode'ei shemekha, וַיִּבְטְחוּ בְךָ יוֹדְעֵי שְׁמֶךָ) employs yada (to know) in the intimate, experiential sense—not mere intellectual awareness but personal relationship and deep familiarity. God's "name" represents His revealed character, His reputation, His self-disclosure. To know God's name means to understand who He truly is—His attributes, His ways, His covenant commitments. This knowledge comes through revelation, experience, and relationship.

"Will put their trust" (yivtechu, יִבְטְחוּ) uses batach, meaning to trust, be confident, feel secure. This is not wishful thinking or blind faith but confidence grounded in knowledge. The future tense suggests inevitable result: knowledge of God's character necessarily produces trust. Those who truly know Him cannot help but trust Him—His character compels confidence.

"Thou, LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee" (ki lo-azavta dorsheikha Yahweh, כִּי לֹא־עָזַבְתָּ דֹרְשֶׁיךָ יְהוָה) provides the theological foundation for trust. Azav means to leave, abandon, forsake, or desert. God has never abandoned those who

seek Him. "Them that seek thee" (dorsheikha, דֹּרְשֵׁיךָ) uses darash, meaning to seek, inquire, require, or pursue. Those who actively pursue God, who seek His face and His will, discover that He never forsakes them. His perfect track record justifies complete trust.

The verse establishes a profound principle: knowledge precedes trust, and God's faithfulness warrants both. This is not circular reasoning but the logic of relationship—those who know God through experience testify to His faithfulness, which encourages others to trust Him.

Historical Context

The concept of "knowing God's name" was central to Israel's covenant relationship with Yahweh. At the burning bush, Moses asked God's name (Exodus 3:13-14), and God revealed Himself as "I AM THAT I AM"—the self-existent, covenant-keeping God. Later, God proclaimed His name to Moses: "The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth" (Exodus 34:6-7). This self-revelation became foundational to Israel's knowledge of God.

Throughout Israel's history, God demonstrated that He does not forsake those who seek Him. He preserved Noah through the flood, called Abraham and fulfilled His promises, delivered Israel from Egypt, sustained them in the wilderness, gave them the land, and raised up deliverers when they cried out. This consistent pattern of faithfulness validated trust in Him.

The prophets continually called Israel back to seeking God, promising that those who seek will find (Jeremiah 29:13). Jesus later affirmed this principle: "seek, and ye shall find" (Matthew 7:7). The New Testament expands the promise: God will never leave nor forsake His people (Hebrews 13:5), and nothing can separate believers from His love (Romans 8:38-39).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What is the difference between knowing about God and knowing God's name in the biblical sense?
2. How does experiential knowledge of God's character produce trust rather than mere intellectual assent?
3. What does it mean to 'seek' God, and how is this different from passive belief?
4. How does God's track record of never forsaking those who seek Him function as the foundation for trust?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּבְטְחוּ ו	בְּ	יֹדְעֵי י	שְׁמִי ב	כִּי	לֹא
will put their trust	H0	And they that know	thy name	H3588	H3808
H982		H3045	H8034		
עַל בְּרַחֲמֵי	דֹרְשֵׁי יְיָ	יְהוָה:			
hast not forsaken	them that seek	in thee for thou LORD			
H5800	H1875	H3068			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 91:14 (Parallel theme): Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

Proverbs 18:10 (References Lord): The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Psalms 5:11 (Faith): But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee.

Jeremiah 29:13 (Parallel theme): And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

2 Timothy 1:12 (Faith): For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am

persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

Psalms 57:1 (Faith): Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until these calamities be overpast.

1 John 5:20 (Parallel theme): And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Psalms 37:28 (References Lord): For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.

1 Chronicles 28:9 (References Lord): And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

2 Corinthians 4:6 (Parallel theme): For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.