

Psalms 94:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When I said, My foot slippeth; thy mercy, O LORD, held me up.

Analysis

When I said, My foot slippeth—(אָמַרְתִּי מֵתֶה כִּלְיִ)–The moment of recognizing imminent fall. Matah (slip/totter/give way) captures that instant when balance fails and collapse begins. **Thy mercy, O LORD, held me up**—(חִסְדְּךָ יְהָוָה סָעַדְנִי)–chesed (steadfast covenant love) becomes saad (support/uphold). The slip happened, but the fall was arrested.

This describes sanctification's rhythm: stumbling met by sustaining grace. Not sinless perfection but preserved progress. Jude 24 promises God 'is able to keep you from falling'—not preventing temptation but providing divine support when we stagger. Peter's sinking walk on water (Matthew 14:30-31) illustrates Jesus catching what chesed arrests.

Historical Context

The imagery likely draws from mountainous Judean terrain where a slipped foot could prove fatal. Shepherds and travelers constantly navigated treacherous paths. David's wilderness years would have familiarized him with such close calls—literal and metaphorical.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. What recent moment of 'slipping' required God's chesed to prevent your fall?
2. How does knowing God upholds rather than condemns your stumbles change your response to failure?
3. Where do you need to declare 'Thy mercy held me up' as testimony to sustaining grace?

Interlinear Text

אָמַרְתִּי אַתָּה מַטְהָרָתִי בְּגַלְעַד מִסְדָּבָב הִנֵּה יְהִי אָמֵן!

H518 When I said H559 H4131 H7272 H2617 H3068 H5582

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 121:3 (Parallel theme): He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Isaiah 41:10 (Parallel theme): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Psalms 38:16 (Parallel theme): For I said, Hear me, lest otherwise they should rejoice over me: when my foot slippeth, they magnify themselves against me.

Luke 22:32 (Parallel theme): But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.

Psalms 17:5 (Parallel theme): Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not.

1 Samuel 2:9 (Parallel theme): He will keep the feet of his saints, and the wicked shall be silent in darkness; for by strength shall no man prevail.

Psalms 73:2 (Parallel theme): But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.

1 Peter 1:5 (Parallel theme): Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

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