

The ABC's on the Word of God

וּבְאֵנִי חֲסִדָּה יִתְּנֶה אֶתְשׁוּעָתְךָ כַּאֲמַרְתָּהּ:
וְאֶעֱנֶה חֲרִפְיָי דְבַר כִּי־בִטְחָמִי בְדַבְרֶךָ:
וְאֶל־מַצֵּל מִמִּי דְבַר־אֲמַת עַד־מָאָד כִּי לֹמֵשׁ־פִּתְּוָהּ יִחְלָתִי:
וְאֶשְׁמְרָה תּוֹרָתְךָ תָּמִיד לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד:
וְאֶתְהַלְּמָה בְרַחֲמֶיךָ כִּי פִשְׁתִּיךָ הִרְשָׁמִיתִי:
וְאֶדְבַרְךָ בְּעֵדוּתִיךָ נֶגֶד מַלְאָכִים וְלֹא אֶבְיֹשׁ:
וְאֶשְׁתַּעֲשַׂע בְּמִצְוֹתֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר אֶהְבֵּיתִי:
וְאֶשְׂאֵ־כִפִּי אֶל־גְּבוּרֹתֶיךָ אֲשֶׁר אֶטְבֹּחַ וְאֶעֱשִׂיחָה בְּהַחֲמוּדֶיךָ:

ו

- Verse 46 of this stanza was the motto of the Augsburg confession:
- Structurally this stanza is very sophisticated, this is due to the alphabetical acrostic use of the letter (ו) *which as a prefix, means 'and,' 'then,' or 'so'*:
- It has been suggested that the (ו) has really only been placed here on account of the alphabetical requirements and therefore there is no real significance to it in this stanza:
- There are then some translations which do not have it rendered at all in the handling of the text:
- It is best to evaluate each occurrence, paying attention to form, and to syntactical indicators, as well as the progression of the argument:

- In doing this one will see that this not just a device but that it is the point of the stanza:
- There are elements which follow in sequence (note v. 42 'so' or v. 44 'so'):
- The theme of these compiled conjunctions (ו) is the psalmist's desire to be 'a strong witness among men' (v. 46, cf. vv. 42a, 43):
- A petition for true, fearless, joyous, confession:
- But this is not the only element to it because the word spoken is first –
 - 1) The word experienced (v. 41)
 - 2) The word trusted (vv. 42b, 43b)
 - 3) The word obeyed (v. 44)
 - 4) The word sought (v. 45)
 - 5) The word loved (vv. 47b, 48b)

I. The Request for Lovingkindness in Communication (vv. 41-42)

A. The Request and Response (vv. 41-42)

1. The Request – Come to Me (וּבְאֵנִי) (v. 41)

a) The LORD's Heseḏ (חֲסִדָּה) (v. 41a)

- The most theologically significant term in the OT:

- Some have rendered it "covenant loyalty," "loyal love," "unfailing love":

- It is a kind of love, unfathomable, unfailing, multifaceted, including 'mercy' upon an object which is in a pitiful state:

b) The LORD's Teshuah (קִשְׁרוּעָה) (v. 41b)

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1. The Request – Come to Me (וּבְאֵנִי) (v. 41)

a) The LORD's Heseḏ (חֲסִדָּה) (v. 41a)

b) The LORD's Teshuah (קִשְׁרוּעָה) (v. 41b)

2. The Response (v. 42)

a) The Consequence Anticipated (v. 42a)

- "Then I shall have an answer for him who taunts me" (וְאֶעֱנֶה חֲרִפְיָי דְבַר):

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A. The Request and Response (vv. 41-42)

1. The Request – Come to Me (וּבְאֵנִי) (v. 41)

a) The LORD's Heseḏ (חֲסִדָּה) (v. 41a)

b) The LORD's Teshuah (קִשְׁרוּעָה) (v. 41b)

2. The Response (v. 42)

a) The Consequence Anticipated (v. 42a)

b) The Confidence – "For I trust in Your word" (כִּי־בִטְחָמִי בְּדַבְרֶךָ) (v. 42b)

I. The Request for Lovingkindness in Communication (vv. 41-42)

II. The Request for Lovingkindness in Credibility (vv. 43-48)

A. The Request and Response (vv. 43-48)

1. The Request – Snatch not Away (וְאַל־תִּסְּאֵל) (v. 43a)

- To have the word of truth taken from one's mouth is to be deprived of the opportunity of speaking to others the wholesome truths embodied in the Word:

- "Enable me to speak the truth at all times"

(GNB)

- "Never keep me from speaking Your truth"

(NCV)

I. The Request for Lovingkindness in Communication (vv. 41-42)

II. The Request for Lovingkindness in Credibility (vv. 43-48)

A. The Request and Response (vv. 43-48)

1. The Request – Snatch not Away (וְאַל־תִּסְּאֵל) (v. 43a)

2. The Response (vv. 44-48)

a) The Consequences Anticipated (vv. 44-48)

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- (i) Obedience (v. 44)
 - I shall pursue this ambition throughout my life:
 - Witness requires a context of an obedient life:
- (ii) Freedom (v. 45)
- (iii) Boldness (v. 46)
 - Unhesitating:
 - Unashamed:
- (iv) Satisfaction (vv. 47-48)
 - Satisfaction is manifested in three distinct ways –
 - (a) *Affectionately* – *Which I Love* (v. 47, 48a)
 - (b) *Volitionally* (v. 48a)
 - (c) *Rationally* (v. 48b)

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II. The Request for Lovingkindness in Credibility (vv. 43-48)

A. The Request and Response (vv. 43-48)

1. The Request – Snatch not Away (7:38-7:43) (v. 43a)

2. The Response (vv. 44-48)

a) The Consequences Anticipated (vv. 44-48)

b) The Confidence (v. 43b)

Acts 4:29

- “And now, Lord, take note of their threats, and grant that Your bond-servants may speak Your word with all confidence, while You extend Your hand to heal, and signs and wonders take place through the name of Your holy servant Jesus.”

Ephesians 6:18-20

- With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints, and *pray* on my behalf, that utterance may be given to me in the opening of my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in *proclaiming* it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Colossians 4:3-4

- praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned; that I may make it clear in the way I ought to speak.