

PRAYING THROUGH OUR DOUBTS

Psalm 73:1-3, 12-28

A Few Thoughts On The Topic Of Doubt

These words, written by a doubting person, has become God's Word to doubting people.

Doubt can play a very important role in our spiritual journey when we place it in the hands of God.

Anyone can doubt. Asaph was a key worship leader and prophet in King David's temple choir.

What Is Doubt? Asaph's Insightful Metaphors

"Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. ²But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. ³For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked."

Asaph's Doubt Helps Us To Discern Where Doubt Often Originates

Verse 3. *"I envied the arrogant, he saw the prosperity (shalom) of the wicked."* Shalom means peace, well-being, harmony, prosperity.

¹³ Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence. ¹⁴ All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments.

How Does Asaph Begin To Move Past His Doubt?

1. Doubt Your Own Doubts (v. 3) *"I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked."*

2. Enter God's Sanctuary (vv. 15-17) *"If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children. ¹⁶When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply till I entered the sanctuary of God; ¹⁷then I understood."*

3. Compare Footholds (vv. 18-20) *"Surely you place them on slippery ground, you cast them to ruin. ¹⁹How suddenly they are destroyed swept away by terrors. ²⁰They are like a dream when one awakes; when you arise, Lord, you will despise them as fantasies."*

4. Feel For God's Hand (vv. 21-24) *"When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered, ²²I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you. ²³Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand. ²⁴You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory."*

Moving From Faith To Doubt To A Much Deeper Faith

²⁵Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. ²⁶My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. ²⁷Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. ²⁸But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign LORD my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds."

"... that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; ¹¹in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead." Philipians 3:10-11

Psalm 73:1-3, 12-28 (NIV)

- ¹ Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.
- ² But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.
- ³ For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
- ¹² This is what the wicked are like—always free of care, they go on amassing wealth.
- ¹³ Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence.
- ¹⁴ All day long I have been afflicted, and every morning brings new punishments.
- ¹⁵ If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children.
- ¹⁶ When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply
- ¹⁷ till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.
- ¹⁸ Surely you place them on slippery ground; you cast them down to ruin.
- ¹⁹ How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!
- ²⁰ They are like a dream when one awakes; when you arise, Lord,
you will despise them as fantasies.
- ²¹ When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered,
- ²² I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you.
- ²³ Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.
- ²⁴ You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory.
- ²⁵ Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you.
- ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart
and my portion forever.
- ²⁷ Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you.
- ²⁸ But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign **LORD** my refuge;
I will tell of all your deeds.