

YEARNING FOR GOD

Psalm 42

We need a passionate desire for God.

I. THIRSTING (1-2)

A. THE CONDITION DESCRIBED (1-2a)

1. The Believer's soul needs God
2. The Believer's soul seeks God
3. The Believer's soul knows God

B. A CONCERN EXPRESSED (2b)

1. When shall I come and appear before God?
2. The question indicates anxiety and uncertainty
3. Being away from God's House has separated David from God's presence

C. TWO QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. Do we desperately long for God?
2. Do we really treat our relationship with God as essential?

II. REFLECTING (3-4)

A. CURRENT WOES (3-4a)

1. Attackers (3)
 - a. Bringing constant tears
 - b. Repeatedly asking "Where is your God?"
2. Anguish (4a)
 - Memories of this made David utterly miserable

B. PAST WORSHIP (4b)

1. Leading multitudes to God's House
2. Cheerfully participating in pilgrim festivals
3. Longing for that to return ... "I used to!"

III. ANALYZING (5a)

A. THE CONDITIONS

1. A soul in despair
 - a. David is sinking down, melting away - See Psalm 44:25 for the same word usage
 - b. He is dissolving and fears disappearing

2. A soul disturbed
 - a. Making noise > Groaning, growling, barking
 - b. A restless uproar
3. The thirsting soul is now fitful!

B. THE QUESTION: Why?

1. David was rightly analyzing and scrutinizing himself
2. Like David, we should be honestly introspective about our spiritual depression
3. We must be willing to ask and answer the tough questions

IV. **INSTRUCTING** (5b-11)

- Getting out of the funk

A. HOPE IN GOD (5b)

1. The Imperative: We are commanded to make God our hope
2. The Inspiration: Once again praising and seeing God

B. REMEMBER GOD (6-8a)

1. From where you are (6-7)
 - a. In spiritual despair (6a)
 - b. At a physical distance (6b)
 - c. Amid emotional difficulties (7)
2. With what you know (8a)
 - God comforts us 24/7!

C. PRAY TO GOD (8b-11)

1. Ask Questions
 - a. The details
 - Ask about your abandonment, oppressors and depression
 - b. The decision:
 - 1) It's OK to ask God about things - See James 1:5
 - 2) God encourages us to cast all of our cares on Him - I Peter 5:7
2. Communicate Confidence (11b)
 - a. Back to the same things as indicated in 5b
 - b. Trusting, praising, and knowing God!

CONCLUSION:

We need a passionate desire for God ...

Expressed by our devotion (1-2) but most often experienced amid difficulties (3-11)

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