

THE LOVINGKINDNESS OF GOD THROUGH PRAYER

How do Psalms 42-43 teach us to access the lovingkindness of God in times of adversity?

Psalm 42-43

Context:

- Psalmist misses and longs to be in the house of God (Ps. 42:1-5).
- Psalmist feels forsaken and forgotten by God (Ps. 42:2, 9).
- Lovingkindness of God (Ps. 42:8).

10 Ideas for Meaningful Prayer from Psalms 42-43:

1. Describes God as his life 42:8
2. Describes God as his rock 42:9
3. Describes God as the source of his hope 42:11
4. Describes God as the source of his help 42:11
5. Describes God as the one who will vindicate him 43:1
6. Describes God as the one who will deliver him 43:1
7. Describes God as his strength 43:2
8. Describes God as the source of light 43:3
9. Describes God as the source of truth 43:3
10. Describes God as the source of his exceeding joy 43:4

As along life's road you roll, focus on the donut and not the hole!

God of My Life (42:8)

- All life comes from God (Gen. 1:20, 21, 24, 28; & 2:7).
- God can give and take life (Gen. 6:17, 19).
- Although we know God can renew life (42:6-8), we need reminders that He is the living God (Josh. 3:6-10 & 4:20-24).
- If God is the God of our lives, how should this shape our prayers?
 - Understand that we pray to a living God.
 - Understand that God cares about our lives.
 - Understand that God enables us to cross our own Jordan river.
 - Understand that God leaves us with memorials of Himself to help us stay focused on Him.

God My Rock (42:9)

- We may experience times of doubt and fear when facing adversities of life, but God is our protection.
- Answer to our doubts and fears is to keep trusting God & praying to Him as our rock (Psa. 42:6-8; 44:1-8; 46:1-11; 47:1-9; 48:9-14)
- Psa 18 gives us an example from the life of David
 - Vs 1-3 he declared God to be his rock, fortress, deliverer...
 - Vs 4-6 provides insight into the mind of David during his adversity
 - Vs 7-15 describes the response of God -the ROCK
 - Vs 16-24 describes David's feelings after being delivered
 - Vs 25-31 notice the conclusion David reached about God
 - He is a rock worthy of our praise
 - He avenges His people by delivering them from their enemies
- If God is our rock, how should this shape our prayers:
 - Understand that He is trustworthy & we can always depend on Him
 - Understand that He fiercely defends His children
 - Understand that He is our support & He rewards our righteousness

Hope in God...my help (42:11)

- The Psalmist is calling on us to wait (hope) on God for help.
- Remember the struggles of Job
 - Ch 29 he recalled former days when things were good
 - Ch 30-31 things had changed drastically and he cried out to God. He felt forgotten and unjustly afflicted
 - Ch 38-41 God spoke to Job about things he knew nothing about
 - Ch 42:1-5 Job acknowledges to God that He is his help and that he will wait on Him
- If we must wait on God & if God is our help, how should this shape our prayers?
 - Even when we feel like we've been “cast into the mire” and God is opposing us (Job 30:19-20), don't doubt God.
 - The more we know and understand God, the more we will depend on Him for help in our time of need.
 - Job 29:21-25 teaches us to listen to God and wait with confidence that He chooses what is best for us.
 - Pray with humility, acknowledging our limitations to understand our Adversities. Job 31 ; 37:14-24

Vindicate, deliver...and protect me God (43:1-2)

- The Psalmist is feeling the burden of adversity and is asking God for a judgment in his favor. He appeals to God for deliverance and protection.
- The ideas of vindication, deliverance and protection are prevalent in the remaining chapters (Psa 44-49) of the sons of Korah.
 - 44:1-3 You vindicated our fathers
 - Let our prayers be historical, not hysterical (1 Sam.1-2)
 - 44:4-8 So, as our King any victories we have will only be by Your strength
 - Called to be ambassadors, not avengers (Rom.12)
 - 44:9-22 Don't leave us as sheep to be slaughtered
 - Feeling vulnerable and lonely is often a test from God

- 44:23-26 Lord, come to our defense and deliver us!
 - This is not an arrogant demand, but a humble cry
- 45:1-5 God promises to send a mighty King to vindicate His people
 - The Judge of all the earth will do right for His people
(Gen.18:25 ; Deut. 32:1-43)

God will vindicate, deliver... and be my strength

(43:1-2)

Vindicate (shaphat) -to judge or govern

Deliver (palat) -to escape

Strength (maoz or mauz) -a place or means of safety, protection

1. What effect does the completeness of God's protection and deliverance have on the strength of our faith? Psa 46:1-3
2. What should be our response to the inheritance God has chosen for us? Psa 47:1-7
3. When we consider the ways God has constructed protection for us in His "holy mountain," what should happen to the turmoil and mourning in our lives? Psa 48:9-14
4. How does meditating on these unchangeable truths change our perspective about adversity? Think in terms of relief vs redemption. Psa 49:1-9
5. What is God's final answer to our question about being vindicated, delivered, and protected? Psa 49:14-15