

Psalms 43

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Psalms 43

The darkness of the heart, the days without hope

The wicked who bully the weak have no goodness and no mercy. He is a deceitful and unrighteous man. It is a never-ending "oppression"; I can only grieve for a long time. God is "the God who gives me strength" and will help me to overcome my troubles, and he will vindicate me, he will "vindicate me," and he will save me "from the deceitful and unrighteous."

The suffering of emigrating to a foreign country. The nostalgia for the hometown, the happy childhood, the familiar culture, and the friendship and affection that I can't give. Psalm 43 is the pain of longing. My thoughts are like tearing my heart, and what I miss is God! It is the holy place of God! My favorite God!

I will pour out my heart to God, crying out earnestly, crying out with a loud voice, "Send forth your light and truth, that you may lead me to your holy mountain and to your dwelling place. God, my God, I will praise you by playing the harp!" The deceit of the Gentiles is shattered, and I long for God, and when I am in trouble, do not pity myself, do not think nonsense, pray that God will not abandon me; I will long for God, I will go to God's holy mountain dwelling, I will worship and sing in front of the altar, I will hope to be with God, I will praise God!

In the face of the outer darkness, the inner darkness, please God to send light and truth to guide me. In dark and hopeless days, what we need most is your light and your truth! Don't let circumstances limit us, don't let our inner emotions hold us back. In the dark, we can't see, we can't touch, we don't know where we're going. Only God, your light and truth, can illuminate all darkness and remove all blindness. I am most pleased to have your light and truth, God!

Therefore, I want to hold on, hold onto the grace that God you have given me in the past, and think that you love us so much, and that your love will never change, and I ask you not to leave us today!

I look to my God. My Jesus, shed His blood and gave his life. We "look to You" because You are "our Rock" and "our Savior."

I praise God. But how can I praise God when I'm in trouble, when I'm depressed? I struggled, "O my heart, why are you discouraged? Why are you restless in God? I will praise my God! Faith that transcends circumstances, although I don't understand all this in front of me, but I have experienced God's grace, so I boldly say to God, "I will praise You!"

We prayed together.

Thou art the Lord of hosts, Thou art my Deliverer, Thou hast not forsaken me in my days of distress and hardship, Thou art the source of our life, Thou art the light of the world, I sing praises of Thy holy name, and in difficult circumstances, we especially miss my contempt. "My soul, O God, longs for thee, and my soul longs for thee, and we commit our predicament to contempt." Avenge us, O God." Lord, we ask You to step in our lives, to stand up for us, to speak for us. Empower us to face every external adversity, and to face internal shocks. You are the Lord of our salvation, the light of the world, who always guides us in hope, and I sing praises to Your holy name

In Jesus' name, Amen

Psalm 43

Prayer for deliverance.

43 Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation:

Oh deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man.

² For thou art the God of my strength; why hast thou cast me off?

Why go I mourning ^[a] because of the oppression of the enemy?

³ Oh send out thy light and thy truth; let them lead me:

Let them bring me unto thy holy hill,

And to thy tabernacles.

⁴ Then will I go unto the altar of God,

Unto God ^[b] my exceeding joy;

And upon the harp will I praise thee, O God, my God.

⁵ Why art thou cast down, O my soul?

And why art thou disquieted within me?

Hope thou in God; for I shall yet praise him,

Who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

Psalm 43 is a brief but powerful prayer of lament, often viewed as a continuation of Psalm 42. Both psalms express deep spiritual anguish and longing for God's presence and deliverance. While Psalm 42 speaks of the soul's longing for God amid distress, Psalm 43 moves into a plea for vindication, guidance, and restoration. The psalmist is clearly going through a time of emotional and spiritual struggle, feeling abandoned by God and oppressed by enemies, yet the psalm ends on a note of hope and trust in God's faithfulness.

Structure of Psalm 43

The psalm can be broken into five verses, and it follows a pattern of calling upon God for intervention, seeking God's presence, and ultimately affirming hope in God.

1. Verses 1-2: Plea for Vindication and Deliverance

- The psalmist starts by pleading with God to vindicate him, asking for deliverance from an unjust situation. He seeks God's judgment against those who are attacking him, calling them "unjust" and "wicked" (often interpreted as enemies or oppressors).
- The psalmist appeals to God as his "God" and "King," recognizing that only God has the authority to intervene and bring justice.

"Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me! For you are the God in whom I take refuge; why have you rejected me? Why do I go about mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?" (Psalm 43:1-2, ESV)

2. Verses 3-4: Plea for Guidance and Restoration

- The psalmist then asks God to send His light and truth to guide him, leading him back to God's presence. He desires to return to the temple, the place where God's glory dwells, so that he can worship and find joy again in God.
- There is a deep yearning to be in the presence of God, which the psalmist believes is the only place where he can experience true joy and restoration.

"Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling! Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise you with the lyre, O God, my God." (Psalm 43:3-4, ESV)

3. Verse 5: Inner Struggle and Hope

- In the final verse, the psalmist speaks to his soul, which is in turmoil. He asks why he is so discouraged and oppressed, yet he encourages himself to hope in God. Even though he feels abandoned, he recognizes that God is his "help" and that he will once again praise Him.
- This verse reflects a shift in the psalmist's focus from despair to hope, and the resolve to trust in God despite current circumstances.

"Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God." (Psalm 43:5, ESV)

Key Verses and Their Significance

1. **Psalm 43:1** - "Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people, from the deceitful and unjust man deliver me!"
 - This verse highlights the psalmist's desire for divine justice. It shows the importance of seeking God's intervention in situations where there is injustice, deceit, and oppression. It calls on God to act as a righteous judge and deliver the faithful from their adversaries.

2. **Psalm 43:3** - "Send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling!"
 - This verse expresses a deep desire for God's guidance. Light and truth symbolize God's presence, wisdom, and faithfulness. The psalmist longs for divine guidance that will lead him back into fellowship with God, symbolized by the "holy hill" (Mount Zion, the location of the temple in Jerusalem).
3. **Psalm 43:5** - "Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God."
 - This verse offers hope in the midst of despair. It's a moment of self-reflection and encouragement to trust in God despite overwhelming circumstances. It emphasizes the power of hope and the expectation that God will restore and deliver in His timing.

Spiritual Influence and Application

Psalm 43 carries significant spiritual teachings and can influence our faith in several ways:

1. Trusting God in Times of Injustice and Oppression:

- The psalmist's cry for God to vindicate him is a reminder that, in times of injustice or when we are mistreated, we are to look to God as the ultimate defender and judge. Even when circumstances seem to favor the wicked or the deceitful, we can trust that God sees all and will intervene in His perfect time.
- *Application:* In moments when we face personal or societal injustice, we can bring our struggles before God, trusting that He will uphold righteousness and deliver us in the best way possible.

2. Seeking God's Presence and Guidance:

- The desire for God's light and truth in verses 3-4 teaches us to seek God's guidance, especially when we feel lost or distant from Him. God's light represents His presence and wisdom, and His truth is the foundation on which we can make decisions.
- *Application:* In times of confusion or spiritual dryness, we should actively seek God through prayer, the Word, and community, asking for His guidance to lead us back to His presence.

3. Self-Encouragement in the Lord:

- Verse 5 is a personal encouragement where the psalmist challenges his own soul to hope in God. This teaches us the importance of actively speaking to ourselves in moments of doubt and discouragement. Rather than allowing despair to rule, we must remind ourselves of God's character, His promises, and our ultimate hope in Him.
- *Application:* When faced with sorrow, anxiety, or feelings of abandonment, we should practice speaking God's truth to ourselves, recalling His faithfulness and the hope we have in His salvation.

4. Worship as a Response to God's Faithfulness:

- The psalm ends with a declaration of praise, showing that worship is the natural response to God's intervention. The psalmist anticipates the joy of returning to God's presence and the altar, where worship and praise flow freely.
- *Application:* Our worship should not only be a reaction to favorable circumstances but also an expression of faith in God's character and His eventual intervention. Even in times of distress, we can choose to praise Him for His greatness and for the hope He provides.

Conclusion

Psalm 43 is a powerful expression of longing for God's justice, presence, and guidance, paired with the psalmist's deep personal faith. It teaches us to trust in God when facing adversity, to seek His guidance when lost or confused, and to remind ourselves of His faithfulness, even in difficult times. The psalm also encourages believers to actively engage in self-encouragement and worship, trusting that God's intervention will ultimately bring restoration and hope. It stands as a powerful reminder that God is our refuge, our deliverer, and our ultimate source of joy and hope.