

Faith that Endures

(Online Study, Tuesday Evening at 7:00 PM)

Week 3: When Faith Is Tested

Psalm 73

Asaph was a worship leader in Israel, a man devoted to God. Yet in Psalm 73, he confesses something startling: he nearly lost his faith. What pushed him to the edge was not persecution or tragedy, but something more subtle—the apparent prosperity of the wicked.

Asaph looked around and saw people who mocked God flourishing. They were healthy, wealthy, arrogant, and seemingly free from consequence. Meanwhile, he felt that his own faithfulness had been in vain. His feet nearly slipped. His steps almost gave way.

This psalm is remarkably honest about the inner struggle of faith. It gives voice to a question that troubles many believers: Why do the wicked prosper while the righteous suffer? Asaph does not pretend this question does not exist. But he also shows us where the answer is found—not in earthly circumstances, but in the presence of God. When Asaph entered the sanctuary, his perspective changed. He saw the end of the ungodly, and he was reminded that God Himself is his portion and his strength. Faith that endures must learn to see beyond the moment and trust the eternal justice of God.

Group Discussion: Have you ever felt envious of people who seem to prosper without regard for God? How does that kind of envy threaten a believer's faith and spiritual stability?

Personal Reflection: When your circumstances feel unfair, where do you instinctively turn—toward bitterness, comparison, or toward God? How might Asaph's journey in this psalm guide you the next time your faith feels shaken?

Read Psalm 73

Study Questions

1. In verse 1, Asaph declares that "God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart." Why does he begin with this affirmation before describing his struggle?
2. In verses 2–3, Asaph confesses that his feet "had almost stumbled" because he was "envious of the arrogant." Why is envy such a dangerous spiritual threat?
3. Verses 4–12 describe the prosperity and arrogance of the wicked. What specific characteristics does Asaph observe, and why do these seem so troubling to a faithful believer?

4. In verses 13–14, Asaph says, “All in vain have I kept my heart clean.” Have you ever felt this way? What drives a believer to question whether faithfulness is worth it?
5. What changed for Asaph in verse 17 when he went “into the sanctuary of God”? Why is the presence of God essential for regaining proper perspective?
6. In verses 18–20, Asaph describes the ultimate end of the wicked. How does understanding God’s final judgment reshape the way we view earthly prosperity?
7. In verses 21–22, Asaph looks back on his envy and calls himself “brutish” and “ignorant.” What does honest self-evaluation look like for a believer who has wrestled with doubt?
8. Verses 23–26 form one of the most beautiful confessions of trust in Scripture. What does Asaph now affirm about his relationship with God, and how has his perspective changed?
9. In verse 25, Asaph says, “There is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.” How does this statement reflect the heart of enduring faith?
10. Looking at Psalm 73 as a whole, what does Asaph’s journey teach us about how to process doubt, envy, and disappointment without abandoning faith?

Now or Later

Reflect on these passages: **Psalm 37:1–11** — Do not fret because of evildoers; **Habakkuk 1:1–4; 2:1–4** — Wrestling with God’s timing and justice; **Job 42:1–6** — Seeing God and finding peace after suffering