



*Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold. Psalm 73:1-2*

## An Encounter with Doubt – Psalm 73

1) Doubt Raises the \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 1-14)

Three Fundamental Mistakes

- \_\_\_\_\_ only what he Sees
- \_\_\_\_\_ out of the Equation
- \_\_\_\_\_ About the Life to Come

2) Faith Finds the \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 15-28)

Observe His Faith Steps ...

- He sees that some things should not be carelessly \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 15)
- He went to the \_\_\_\_\_ to find an answer. (vs 17)
- He saw the \_\_\_\_\_ and it was not a pretty sight (vv. 18-20)
- He sees how \_\_\_\_\_ he had been (vv. 21-22)
- He gains a new \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 23-26)
- He sees the essential difference between the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 27-28)

## Closing Thoughts

The ultimate good in life is not prosperity, nor the absence of pain, but the \_\_\_\_\_.

Pain serves the good purpose of putting life and death, pain and prosperity into \_\_\_\_\_.

We can see from Asaph's experience that dealing with trouble and the resulting doubt is a \_\_\_\_\_.

- Have you ever struggled with doubt? Ever seen doubt lead to despair? Or worse? Have you seen it take you to places you never would have thought of going? Share what you are comfortable with telling with your group. How did this affect you?
- Doubt usually leads us toward taking improper steps. Consider the 3 Fundamental Mistakes under point 1. How do each affect us and our attempts to make sense of our current circumstances? How do they add to doubt? How do they negatively affect our potential of successfully navigating a crisis? How does doubt affect faith?
- The problem of pain/evil has been defined as the Achilles' heel of the Christian faith. For centuries people have wrestled with the conundrum, how a good and loving God could allow evil, pain, and suffering to be so prevalent in His creation. This weekend we heard about 1 man's struggle with pain and the doubt that arose. What do the following verses teach us about suffering?
 

Romans 5:3-5	2 Corinthians 1:3-4	Galatians 6:2
2 Corinthians 4:7-9	Job 2:7-10	2 Cor. 4:17-18
Revelation 21:4	1 Peter 4:12-19	1 Peter 1:6-7
- Consider the Closing Thoughts from Sunday. Which of these catch your attention? Why? How is God desiring to use that in your life?
- Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder among your small group.
  - If we say that God is faithful to us in all our failures, someone will object that this promotes loose living. Your answer?
  - Is there anything in your life that you knowingly treasure more than God? How can you get rid of it?
  - A new Christian tells you that he was happier as a pagan than he is now as a Christian. What would you say?
  - What has helped you most to treasure God above all else? What has hindered you the most in this quest?



## Faith Slipping Away

NorthRidge Church

Dr. M. David Myers

December 2, 2018

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### An Encounter with Doubt – Psalm 73

#### 1) Doubt Raises the **Question** (vs. 1-14)

Three Fundamental Mistakes

- **Judging** only what he Sees
- **Leaving God** out of the Equation
- **Forgetting** About the Life to Come

#### 2) Faith Finds the **Answer** (vs. 15-28)

Observe His Faith Steps ...

- a. He sees that some things should not be carelessly **shared with others**. (v. 15)
- b. He went to the **right place** to find an answer. (vs 17)
- c. He saw the **end of the wicked** and it was not a pretty sight (vv. 18-20)
- d. He sees how **foolish** he had been (vv. 21-22)
- e. He gains a new **view of God**. (vv. 23-26)
- f. He sees the essential difference between the **righteous** and the **wicked** (vv. 27-28)

### Closing Thoughts

The ultimate good in life is not prosperity, nor the absence of pain, but the **nearness of God**.

Pain serves the good purpose of putting life and death, pain and prosperity into **Perspective**.

We can see from Asaph's experience that dealing with

trouble and the resulting doubt is a **Process**.

### Truth for Life

For the week of December 2, 2018

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

1. Have you ever struggled with doubt? Ever seen doubt lead to despair? Or worse? Have you seen it take you to places you never would have thought of going? Share what you are comfortable with telling with your group. How did this affect you?
2. Doubt usually leads us toward taking improper steps. Consider the 3 Fundamental Mistakes under point 1. How do each affect us and our attempts to make sense of our current circumstances? How do they add to doubt? How do they negatively affect our potential of successfully navigating a crisis? How does doubt affect faith?
3. The problem of pain/evil has been defined as the Achilles' heel of the Christian faith. For centuries people have wrestled with the conundrum, how a good and loving God could allow evil, pain, and suffering to be so prevalent in His creation. This weekend we heard about 1 man's struggle with pain and the doubt that arose. What do the following verses teach us about suffering?  

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4. Consider the Closing Thoughts from Sunday. Which of these catch your attention? Why? How is God desiring to use that in your life?
5. Here are some more challenging questions that will be great to ponder among your small group.
  - a. If we say that God is faithful to us in all our failures, someone will object that this promotes loose living. Your answer?
  - b. Is there anything in your life that you knowingly treasure more than God? How can you get rid of it?
  - c. A new Christian tells you that he was happier as a pagan than he is now as a Christian. What would you say?

- d. What has helped you most to treasure God above all else?  
What has hindered you the most in this quest?