

Renewing Our Minds to God's Goodness by Lucinda Davidoff - August 18, 2019

In the last few weeks we have been focusing on the subject of renewing our minds.

And today we continue this subject with the focus of renewing our minds to God's goodness.

QUESTIONING GOD

In the Christian experience, we go through times of QUESTIONING God's goodness especially when we have:

UNANSWERED PRAYERS or

PERSECUTION FOR OUR FAITH WHEN TRAGEDY HITS or

FINANCIAL LACK or

ABUSE WE SUFFER

The truth is we start to look around us at people who have disappointed us, we look at people who prosper and they don't even know God or consider Him, and we ask ourselves the question is following God worth it?

This reminds me of Psalm 73 A Psalm of Asaph

Asaph was one of the main worship leaders in Israel, so he once had a very real relationship with Father God - he had seen and experienced God's presence but something happened instead of that deep personal relationship leading Him we see he started looking outside of His relationship with God for fulfillment. And his worship turns from a personal relationship into religious ritual. He then started questioning God.

Religion can so quickly replace relationship in our lives.

Staying in a place of QUESTIONING without seeking God is a dangerous place to be.

Psalm 73

[1] Truly God *is* good to Israel,

To such as are pure in heart.

[2] But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled;

My steps had nearly slipped.

It is so easy and quick to slip when we allow thoughts of envy and resentment and bitterness into our hearts and minds.

When we allow the spirit of the world to shape our thinking about God and we don't base it on a personal relationship with Him or on the truth in His Word

When we allow thoughts of depression to rule over us, we put ourselves on slippery slopes

When we mull over thoughts in our head that produce negative emotions – it is a dangerous place to be – and many have fallen and never again returned to a relationship with God

Matthew 24:12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of many will grow cold

Many people have questions but they are not interested in true answers - all they really want is to vent their anger or bitterness and uncertainty or pain - they want the attention with their tantrums because if they really wanted truth they would come into the presence of God, they would search

His Word and they would find truth. They mull in their depression and keep rehearsing all the past hurts that have happened to them...they love the sad old song of hopelessness that they sing.

BE RENEWED IN YOUR MIND

Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Matthew 7:7 Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.

Psalm 73

[3] For I was envious of the boastful,
When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

[4] For *there are* no pangs in their death,
But their strength *is* firm.

[5] They *are* not in trouble *as other* men,
Nor are they plagued like *other* men.

[6] Therefore pride serves as their necklace;
Violence covers them *like* a garment.

[7] Their eyes bulge with abundance;
They have more than heart could wish.

[8] They scoff and speak wickedly *concerning* oppression;
They speak loftily.

[9] They set their mouth against the heavens,

And their tongue walks through the earth.

[10] Therefore his people return here,

And waters of a full *cup* are drained by them.

[11] And they say, “How does God know?

And is there knowledge in the Most High?”

[12] Behold, these *are* the ungodly,

Who are always at ease;

They increase *in* riches.

[13] Surely I have cleansed my heart *in* vain,

And washed my hands in innocence.

[14] For all day long I have been plagued,

And chastened every morning.

THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES FOR MAKING OTHERS STUMBLE

[15] If I had said, “I will speak thus,”

Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children.

The pattern of this world is to proudly SPEAK OUR MIND without regarding whether what you say will edify others or break them down, no matter the consequences of your words and thoughts and if you make others stumble.

Matthew 18:6 But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

Asaph decided to GO into the sanctuary of God to get some answers before he ANNOUNCED his crisis of faith and get others to follow him in his folly.

COMING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE FOR ANSWERS:

[16] When I thought *how* to understand this,

It was too painful for me—

[17] Until I went into the sanctuary of God;

Then I understood their end.

Going into the sanctuary, means he came into the presence of God.

When he started seeking God's perspective of what he was going through, he began to see things from God's point of view.

From an ETERNAL perspective

He shifted from natural thinking to spiritual thinking.

He decided to RENEW His mind to God's goodness.

Sometimes we go through deep spiritual introspection of WHY we believe or WHY something happened to us.

We need to renew our minds to WHO God is to us personally. We personally need to SEEK GOD out and get our questions answered by God himself.

The FATE OF THE UNGODLY:

[18] Surely You set them in slippery places;

You cast them down to destruction.

[19] Oh, how they are *brought* to desolation, as in a moment!

They are utterly consumed with terrors.

[20] As a dream when *one* awakes,

So, Lord, when You awake,

You shall despise their image.

[21] Thus my heart was grieved,

And I was vexed in my mind.

[22] I was so foolish and ignorant;

I was *like* a beast before You.

BRING YOUR QUESTIONS TO GOD

- Asaph decided to RUN to God with his questions.

- The woman with the issue of blood knew doctors could not heal her so she pushed through the crowd, defied every Jewish law to intentionally lay hold of Jesus garment.

- The widowed woman, who was about to die of starvation, took her last bread and gave it to the prophet, and she was fed in a very difficult time in her life.

Psalm 121:1-2

[1] I will lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help comes from? **[2]** My help *comes* from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth.

When we are going through a time of questioning the goodness of God because of deep pain and unfulfillment, it's important that we run to the One Who has all our personal answers. That doesn't mean your problems necessarily go away, however, you find fulfillment in the midst of your crisis or hope when you were once filled with despair.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

[5] Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
[6] in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight.

Job 13:15 “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him”

My question to you is what is your crisis of faith? What are the hard questions you are asking?

Are you allowing the wrong thoughts and attitudes to MULL around in your heart thereby increasing unbelief and resentment? Or are you renewing your mind to Gods goodness?

My encouragement to you is come into the presence of God this morning and renew your mind to God's perspective. To the hope there is in God.

We see Asaph's conclusion to his crisis of faith after he came into the presence of God, after he took his eyes off the things of the world and returned them to the wonder of God.

He is more than enough for you - even if you don't fully get your answer on this earth, His presence is more than enough to fill you.

Psalm 73:25 says it best - Whom have I in heaven *but You?* And *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire besides You

OUR POSITION AS A SON OR DAUGHTER OF GOD

[23] Nevertheless I *am* continually with You;

You hold *me* by my right hand.

[24] You will guide me with Your counsel,

And afterward receive me *to* glory.

[25] Whom have I in heaven *but You?*

And *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire besides You.

[26] My flesh and my heart fail;

But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

[27] For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish;

You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry.

[28] But *it is* good for me to draw near to God;

I have put my trust in the Lord God,

That I may declare all Your works.