

Psalm 73: Walking Through a Crisis of Faith

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I. Introduction

- 1) What is a crisis of faith?
 - i. vs. 2, 21

- 2) Some of us would never admit that we are having, or that we had a crisis of faith.
 - i. Partly because we don't understand faith.

 - ii. Partly because we fear admission.

- 3) *All of us will have a crisis of faith if we live by faith.*

II. How do we get into a crisis of faith?

- 1) What happened to the psalmist?
 - i. He took his eyes off the eternal...

 - ii. The enemy used what he saw to deceive him.
 - vs. 4-12

 - The serpent is constantly selling us on the gap! Genesis 3:1-6

- 2) This is a crisis that comes when the word has been choked...

III. How do we recover from this crisis?

- 1) How did the psalmist recover?
 - i. vs. 17: **He fled to the throne of God!**

- Hebrews 4:14-16

ii. vs. 18-20 **He turns his attention onto God.**

- *The foundation of all truth is God.*

- *It isn't just that we need to focus on eternity; we need to focus on God.*

iii. vs. 17-22 **He examines *the earthly city* and *himself* in light of the truth of God!**

- Before God a focus on the prosperity of the wicked is absurd!

- Before God my doubt is exposed as foolish!

iv. He recounts to himself the truth of God's promises!

a) I am always with you!

b) His confidence is in God:

- **You** hold me.
- **You** guide me.
- **You** will take me into glory.

v. He is refreshed in the joy of God's presence.

2) How do we/you recover from a crisis of faith?

vi. Flee to the throne of God

vii. Contemplate the truth of God

viii. Remind yourself of the hope of the Gospel.

ix. Be refreshed in the joyous presence of God.

Change your comparison: *compare the glory of God's presence to everything else and the peril of not having it.*

IV. How do I minimize crises of faith? How do I lessen their impact?

- 1) Live in this cure.
- 2) Keep the word going in.
- 3) Change your comparisons.

Drawing Lines

Making the connection between what we "know" about the Gospel and how we think and live.

- Have you ever felt like your faith was slipping? ... like you were loosing your foothold on the Rock?
 - What kind of thoughts are going through your mind then? How do those compare to those of the psalmist in Psalm 73?
- In Psalm 73:1,2 the psalmist talks as if he is separated from Israel, the people of God. When your faith is being tested, do you ever feel isolated from the people of God? Have you ever seen that as part of the temptation?
- What are some of the things that led to a crisis of faith for the psalmist? Can you relate?
- How do you walk from doubt to faith in the midst of a crisis like this?