

## Psalm 73

3-1-2020

*Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart! But as for me, my feet came close to stumbling, my steps had almost slipped... For I was envious of the arrogant as I saw the prosperity of the wicked. Psalm 73:1-3*

### 1. Faith Never Grows in an Atmosphere of Comparison.

*For there are no pains in their death, And their body is fat. They are not in trouble as other men, nor are they plagued like mankind. Therefore pride is their necklace; The garment of violence covers them. Their eye bulges from fatness; The imaginations of their heart run riot. They mock and wickedly speak of oppression; They speak from on high. They have set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue parades through the earth. Therefore his people return to this place, And waters of abundance are drunk by them. They say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge with the Most High?" Behold, these are the wicked; And always at ease, they have increased in wealth. Psalm 73:5-12*

*Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and washed my hands in innocence; for I have been stricken all day long and chastened every morning. Psalm 73:13-14*

### 2. Our Faith Cannot be Contingent on Blessing.

*Why are we also in danger every hour? I affirm, brethren, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, **I die daily**. If from human motives I fought with wild beasts at Ephesus, what does it profit me? If the dead are not raised, LET US EAT AND DRINK, FOR TOMORROW WE DIE. 1 Corinthians 15:30-32*

*"When the Spirit of God is working, he always guides us to the throne of grace. How? By constantly revealing to us our weakness and failure - where we're not acting like Christ. Others might be patting us on the back; the Holy Spirit instead shows us our need of Christ and leads us in that direction." - Jim Cymbala*

*If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I would have betrayed the generation of Your children, When I pondered to understand this, it was troublesome in my sight Psalm 73:15-16*

### 3. Struggles with Our Faith Don't Need to be Indiscriminately Shared.

*Until I came into the sanctuary of God, then I perceived their end. Psalm 73:17a*

### 4. Sometimes the Only Answer We Can Have is Worship.

*O LORD, my heart is not proud, nor my eyes haughty; Nor do I involve myself in great matters, Or in things too difficult for me. Surely I have composed and quieted my soul; Like a weaned*

*child rests against his mother, My soul is like a weaned child within me. O Israel, hope in the LORD From this time forth and forever. Psalm 131*

### **5. God Never Leaves Us In Our Struggles**

*When my heart was embittered and I was pierced within, then I was senseless and ignorant; I was like a beast before You. **Nevertheless I am continually with You;** You have taken hold of my right hand. With Your counsel You will guide me, And afterward receive me to glory.  
Psalm 73:21-24*

### **6. God's Presence Really is Enough**

*Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth. My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever. For, behold, those who are far from You will perish; You have destroyed all those who are unfaithful to You. **But as for me, the nearness of God is my good;** I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, That I may tell of all Your works. Psalm 73:25-28*