

A Psalm for the Doubtful

Psalms for the Soul #6 – Pastor Jonathan Minter – June 17, 2018 – Psalm 77

Psalm 77:1-20 (ESV) *To the choirmaster: according to Jeduthun. A Psalm of Asaph.* 1I cry aloud to God, aloud to God, and he will hear me. 2In the day of my trouble I seek the Lord; in the night my hand is stretched out without wearying; my soul refuses to be comforted. 3When I remember God, I moan; when I meditate, my spirit faints. Selah 4You hold my eyelids open; I am so troubled that I cannot speak. 5I consider the days of old, the years long ago. 6I said, "Let me remember my song in the night; let me meditate in my heart." Then my spirit made a diligent search: 7"Will the Lord spurn forever, and never again be favorable? 8Has his steadfast love forever ceased? Are his promises at an end for all time? 9Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has he in anger shut up his compassion?" Selah 10Then I said, "I will appeal to this, to the years of the right hand of the Most High." 11I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. 12I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds. 13Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God? 14You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples. 15You with your arm redeemed your people, the children of Jacob and Joseph. Selah 16When the waters saw you, O God, when the waters saw you, they were afraid; indeed, the deep trembled. 17The clouds poured out water; the skies gave forth thunder; your arrows flashed on every side. 18The crash of your thunder was in the whirlwind; your lightnings lighted up the world; the earth trembled and shook. 19Your way was through the sea, your path through the great waters; yet your footprints were unseen. 20You led your people like a flock by the hand of Moses and Aaron.

How to find encouragement in the midst of doubt:

1. _____ to God when your soul is troubled.

Ecclesiastes 3:1,4 (ESV) For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

Psalm 6:6-7a (NLT) I am worn out from sobbing. All night I flood my bed with weeping, drenching it with my tears. My vision is blurred by grief...

Psalm 55:4-5 (NLT) My heart pounds in my chest. The terror of death assaults me. Fear and trembling overwhelm me, and I can't stop shaking.

2. Ask _____ of God's character.

Asaph's doubts about God's character:

- God isn't _____.
- God's everlasting love _____.
- God doesn't _____.
- God ignores _____.
- God is _____.

Psalm 130:7 (ESV) ...For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

Job 22:28 (NLT) You will succeed in whatever you choose to do, and light will shine on the road ahead of you.

3. Reflect on God's _____.

Isaiah 55:8 (NLT) "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine."

Job 40:2 (NLT) Do you still want to argue with the Almighty? You are God's critic, but do you have the answers?