

Psalm 73

Author: Asaph

Asaph, a leader of one of the Temple choirs, is bearing witness to societal ills we face today. The relevancy of the Bible never ceases to amaze me. Asaph watched the wicked prosper and those with less fall victim to envy wishing they could trade places. Not only had he witnessed such, he allowed what he saw to get inside his soul and feed his spirit. The result? Bitterness, envy, and grief.

No one wants a life of bitterness, envy, and/or grief. We can starve our spirit of such negative emotions when we feed it the opposite. Feeding our spirit with the positive will help us stay strong in our faith when we wrong wins and arrogance succeeds.

Satisfaction Rather than Bitterness

“God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him.” ~ John Piper.

The first decision we have to make is whether or not we are alright with God getting the glory. Until we answer this question, our heart will be fertile soil for the root of bitterness to grow. It is impossible for God to be glorified when we seek to satisfy ourselves.

From the moment we give God, His will, and His ways priority, a supernatural something happens. You can't explain it - you have to experience it. The more we experience the glorification of God, the more satisfied we become with our lives. Our thought process changes. We begin to see ourselves as “the haves,” people who have, while what we don't have is no longer a concern.

The more satisfied we become, the more we want to glorify God. We learn and live Piper's truth then come and recognize that glorifying God is the source of our satisfaction.

Read Isaiah 42:8

How does God feel about His glory?

Is it easy to see wrong win and evil succeed? No, it isn't. We can fight against the advancement of wrong and evil by fighting for right and good. With all our might we can follow the truths in Micah 6:8b and 1 Corinthians 10:31 and glory God.

Write both verses below.

Micah 6:8b

1 Corinthians 10:31

Confidence Rather than Envy

“No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.” ~ Eleanor Roosevelt

That’s the truth, Eleanor. A sad but true fact is that we sacrifice our confidence on the altar of comparison. Envy is the feeling of discontent as we view other’s advantages and success. We weren’t born with a DNA code marked “no confidence.” This wrong view grows each time we go to this altar.

If we carefully survey our past, we can pinpoint the genesis of our envy issue. Something stole our innocence. Someone who had more made us feel inferior because we had less. I remember loving the new jacket my mother bought me until someone told me it was “pleather”, not leather. It was only a little something, but lots of littles add up to big, and very early in life we forgot who were created to be.

Read Ephesian 2:10

Who are you? (Start your answer with “I am...”)

In whom were you created? _____

What were you created to do? _____

It’s doesn’t stop there, friend. The English word *poem* is derived from the Greek form of the word *workmanship*, *poiéma* (poy'-ay-mah). You are God’s poem. I am God’s poem. Each child is a poem in God’s book of poetry. Can we commit to celebrate our uniqueness rather than sacrificing it based what we don’t have or can’t do?

Joy Rather than Grief

“Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.” ~ The prophet Nehemiah

The psalmist soul is grieved because he has allowed his feelings about “the haves” to consume him. In his grief he called out to God. It was in this simple act of humility where he grabbed the tiniest bit of strength, enough to propel him to the sanctuary where he met with truth. Truth leads to freedom, freedom to joy, and joy to strength. Joy starts with humility.

Read James 4:10

What does God do for the humble?

Feed your soul with right stuff and the wrong stuff won’t grow.