

Psalm 43 – Bible Study Notes **Seek God When He Seems the Furthest Away**

Primary Focus: Faith in God when things look the worst.

Background Info: Likely written by one of the Sons of Korah, a temple musician. He was stranded in the northern region of the Jordan River and being persecuted because of his faith.

Other Info: Psalms 42 and 43 comprise one three-stanza poem or song. Stanzas are 42:1-5, 42:6-11, 43:1-5. The psalmist longs to be back at the temple of God where he may be in God's presence and worship God there. He is feeling forgotten, abandoned, and lonely. He seeks refuge in the only place where solace may be found; he seeks God. The song is a journey of growing dependence on God while turmoil builds around him.

Basic structure:

- I. Psalmist expresses his despair (vv. 1-2)
 - A. A plea for help from God (v. 1)
 - B. Reflecting on his despair (v. 2)
- II. Psalmist expresses a realization that through faith that he can be in God's presence anywhere (vv. 3-4)
 - A. God will lead the psalmist to His presence (v. 3)
 - B. He will praise God once again (v. 4)
- III. Psalmist expresses no need to feel despair because he can trust and worship God anywhere (v. 5)

Verses 1-2 – The Psalmist's Despair

Verse 1 – The psalmist cries out to God expressing his despair and turmoil.

He believes only God can save him.

He believes God will save him from the evil people around him.

Verse 2 – The psalmist contemplates his own feelings.

He believes God has abandoned him in his time of need.

Knowing how God is "my strength", he wonders if he should feel so depressed.

Life Questions

Think of a time you felt far away from God. What that was like and how it made you feel?

Verses 3-4 – The Psalmist's Realization

Verse 3 – The psalmist believes God will guide him back to God's presence.

He realizes God will not abandon him.

He remembers that he can have faith in God no matter what happens or where he is.

Verse 4 – The psalmist looks forward to worshiping God once again.
The joys of praising God satisfy his soul more than anything else.
He wants to praise God with song as he did many times before in the temple.

Life Questions

Many Christians view worship as a weekly routine.
Why does the psalmist believe it is a daily joy? How
should we approach worshipping God?

Verse 5 – The Psalmist’s Faith

The psalmist knows that he has no need to despair for God can be worshiped from
anywhere.

He knows there is no need to let life’s situation dictate his faith in God.
He trusts God alone for solace and lets God build his faith.

Life Questions

Why is it critical to have faith in God? How has God
helped grow your faith in times of despair?