

Hope in God

Read: Psalm 42 & 43

Summary:

Many have considered these 2 Psalms to be one. They are a lament, whether on behalf of a nation, king or individual, they are very open and personal. When we are healthy and happy it is much easier to be outgoing and positive but this Psalm covers Dryness, Drowning and Disheartenment. Despite the tremendous difficulty the author continues to remember God and has hope!

Psalm 42:1-4 *Dry*

The picture is of a deer that is trying to find water and refreshment in a very dry and barren land. The psalmist is away from the people of God and is longing for the festivals and celebrating the goodness of God. This is not a casual but crucial longing. He reminds us of the privilege of corporate worship; so much more than a collection of individuals and if we neglect to attend we will remain dry.

Psalm 42:6-10 *Drowning*

Despite water often being a picture of God, this image is one of chaos and being overwhelmed. There is a sense of everything being too much and the absolute necessity of the presence of God. God is our rock! We must not forget all that He is and has done for us.

Psalm 43:1-4 *Disheartened*

The psalmist appears to spiral further down and so he appeals God vindicate me. There are so many questions asking God where are you? I feel so abandoned. In spite of not 'feeling the closeness of God' the psalmist models that it is still good to pray as this gets things off our chest, it is good to be honest before God, pain should not stop prayer but provoke it and it reminds us that our God is still in control

Application:

1. Was there anything shared on Sunday that needs clarifying for you?
2. What did God say to you on Sunday and what are you going to do as a result?
3. In what ways do you find knowing God refreshes you?
4. What do you long to see in your relationship with God that is not there yet?
5. Each person remember and share 5 things that God has done for them.
6. Write out a prayer expressing your feelings in difficulties but also your trust in God. Keep it and read it when next in a trial.
7. In what ways do you listen to your self and in what ways do you talk to yourself? How do you want this to change?