

Psalm 42 – 43

New American Standard Version

1 *For the choir director. A Maskil of the sons of Korah.*
2 ⁴²1As the deer pants for the water brooks,
3 So my soul pants for You, O God.
4 ²My soul thirsts for God, for the living God;
5 When shall I come and appear before God?
6–³My tears have been my food day and night,
7 While *they* say to me all day long, “Where is your God?”
8+⁴These things I remember and I pour out my soul within me.
9 For I used to go along with the throng *and* lead them in procession to
10 the house of God,
11 With the voice of joy and thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.
12 ⁵Why are you in despair, O my soul?
13 And *why* have you become disturbed within me?
14 Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him
15 For the help of His presence.
16 ⁶O my God, my soul is in despair within me;
17 Therefore I remember You from the land of the Jordan
18 And the peaks of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.
19 ⁷Deep calls to deep at the sound of Your waterfalls;
20 All Your breakers and Your waves have rolled over me.
21 ⁸The Lord will command His lovingkindness in the daytime;
22 And His song will be with me in the night,
23 A prayer to the God of my life.
24 ⁹I will say to God my rock, “Why have You forgotten me?
25 Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?”
26 ¹⁰As a shattering of my bones, my adversaries revile me,
27 While they say to me all day long, “Where is your God?”
28 ¹¹Why are you in despair, O my soul?
29 And why have you become disturbed within me?
30 Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him,
31 The help of my countenance and my God.
32 ⁴³1Vindicate me, O God, and plead my case against an ungodly nation;
33 O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man!
34 ²For You are the God of my strength; why have You rejected me?
35 Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?
36 ³O send out Your light and Your truth, let them lead me;
37 Let them bring me to Your holy hill
38 And to Your dwelling places.
39 ⁴Then I will go to the altar of God,
40 To God my exceeding joy;
41 And upon the lyre I shall praise You, O God, my God.
42 ⁵Why are you in despair, O my soul?
43 And why are you disturbed within me?
44 Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him,
45 The help of my countenance and my God.

Observation (What does it say?):

What do you notice in this passage?

Mark your observations (underline, circle, etc.)

- Repeated words or phrases?
- Parallel ideas?
- Unusual or symbolic language?
- Contrasts? Mark ⁺positive and ⁻negative statements.
- Other observations?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

After observing the passage:

- Is there any flow or rhythm or progress of the positive and negative statements?
- What parts seem clear and straightforward?
- What parts seem unclear or confusing?
- What questions come to mind as you read?

Application (What does it mean for me?):

- Which of the psalmist's laments do you most identify with? Why?
- Which of the psalmist's hopeful statements do you most identify with? Why?
- How might this passage affect your understanding of who God is and what He is doing?
- What part of this passage would be the most challenging for you to apply?
- What would be different (attitudes, behavior) if God used this passage to change you?

Additional questions for thought and discussion:

Inductive Bible Study

(A few general ideas)

Observation (What does it say?)

What facts do you **observe** about the passage that help bring out the writer's thought process?

- Who are the people involved?
- What action takes place?
- What type of literature is it (poetry, history, didactic, etc.)?
- What details are included or left out?
- Are any unusual words used?
- Is there symbolic language?
- What is the grammar of the passage (pronouns, prepositions, verb tenses)?
- Are words or ideas repeated?
- Any comparisons or contrasts?
- Any cause and effect?
- Are there indications of purpose ("in order that...")?
- Are there conclusions ("Therefore...")?
- Are there explanations?
- Does the passage logically break into sections?
- How would you summarize the passage?
- What would be a good "headline" for the passage?

Interpretation (What does it mean?)

What questions come to mind about the facts that would help you **interpret** the meaning?

- How would the original readers have understood the passage?
- What is the main emphasis?
- Why does the writer use repetition, or contrast, or unusual words?
- What does the grammar or structure of the passage reveal about the writer's thought pattern?
- Is there a logical sequence in the passage?
- How are different ideas in the passage connected?
- Are there any new ideas or concepts presented?
- Are there difficulties in the passage?

Application (What does it mean for me?)

What is the impact on your life? What **application** does the Holy Spirit want to show you?

- Is there a command to obey?
- Is there a promise to be thankful for?
- Is there an attribute of God to worship?
- Is there an example to follow?

**Read nothing into the Scriptures, but draw everything from them, and suffer nothing to remain hidden that is really in them.
J.A. Bengel (1687-1752)**