

Psalm 73

Why faith is hard v1-14

Verse 1 is a key statement of faith in this psalm. God is good to his people. Now look at v2-14. Why was what the psalmist 'saw' (see v3 and following) a stumbling block (v2) to the faith of v1?

Why is the psalmist so disappointed in God (v13-14)? What did he expect his relationship with God to be like and why?

Can you think of modern day examples of this type of expectation? How can trouble lead to spiritual struggle?

The encounter that changes everything v15-22

Look at v16-17. What was it that changed the psalmist's understanding? Why do you think that is?

How does that affect how he views the wicked now and also himself?

The relationship that matters v23-28

Formerly, the psalmist focused on what he 'saw' and the 'unfairness' of wickedness leading to 'success'. How has his focus now changed, and what effect does that have on his values and feelings?

How does he think of his relationship with God now?

Thinking it through

How do you think that we too, like the psalmist, can learn to 'see' differently? Is there a place for training ourselves in this? If so, what might this look like? In what areas might we need to speak truth to our souls?

What do you think are the particular difficulties in these restricted and strange times that can take our eyes away from the Lord?

Can you think of practical ways in which we might grow in our delight in our relationship with him?