

# Psalm 42

## Doubts

Korah: specialists in choirs + music  
 Maskil: a contemplative didactic psalm for teaching

mental turmoil or perplexity with God

2 kinds of doubt:

① Doubt - aporia - 'without a way', perplexed, bewildered or confused. God never condemns this attitude (1 Cor. 4: 6-12) - God breaks down the soul so that LIFE will minister to others "perplexed vs - doubt", but not despairing!  
 ways God teaches us so we can minister to others  
 (Gal. 4) - "perplexed about you"

② Doubt - diakrino - to be of two minds WILL fail  
 (Ja. 1: 4-6) Volitional unbelief - turning from God, blaming God, I won't come to God  
 "God couldn't love me + let this happen to me, I'll go my own way"

Ps. 42 - aporia - perplexity - only one way to go to God  
 "without a way" will cause you to go to God.

4 factors which cause doubt (never comes out causes)  
 (v. 1) 1. Misses fellowship + God - lacks a sense of the personal presence of God

Sometimes God allows us dry times: so that we learn apart from Him we can do nothing

(v. 3) 2. Sense of personal failure - leads to great personal doubt. Women + their children failing. Especially after spiritual work which fails - vulnerable

11

$\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{4}$   
 $\frac{1}{3} \times \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{9}$   
 $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{16}$   
 $\frac{1}{5} \times \frac{1}{5} = \frac{1}{25}$   
 $\frac{1}{6} \times \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{36}$   
 $\frac{1}{7} \times \frac{1}{7} = \frac{1}{49}$   
 $\frac{1}{8} \times \frac{1}{8} = \frac{1}{64}$   
 $\frac{1}{9} \times \frac{1}{9} = \frac{1}{81}$   
 $\frac{1}{10} \times \frac{1}{10} = \frac{1}{100}$

$\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{6}$   
 $\frac{1}{3} \times \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{12}$   
 $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{5} = \frac{1}{20}$   
 $\frac{1}{5} \times \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{30}$   
 $\frac{1}{6} \times \frac{1}{7} = \frac{1}{42}$   
 $\frac{1}{7} \times \frac{1}{8} = \frac{1}{56}$   
 $\frac{1}{8} \times \frac{1}{9} = \frac{1}{72}$   
 $\frac{1}{9} \times \frac{1}{10} = \frac{1}{90}$

$\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{4} = \frac{1}{8}$   
 $\frac{1}{3} \times \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{18}$   
 $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{8} = \frac{1}{32}$   
 $\frac{1}{5} \times \frac{1}{10} = \frac{1}{50}$   
 $\frac{1}{6} \times \frac{1}{12} = \frac{1}{72}$   
 $\frac{1}{7} \times \frac{1}{14} = \frac{1}{98}$   
 $\frac{1}{8} \times \frac{1}{16} = \frac{1}{128}$   
 $\frac{1}{9} \times \frac{1}{18} = \frac{1}{162}$

$\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{6} = \frac{1}{12}$   
 $\frac{1}{3} \times \frac{1}{9} = \frac{1}{27}$   
 $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{1}{12} = \frac{1}{48}$   
 $\frac{1}{5} \times \frac{1}{15} = \frac{1}{75}$   
 $\frac{1}{6} \times \frac{1}{18} = \frac{1}{108}$   
 $\frac{1}{7} \times \frac{1}{21} = \frac{1}{147}$   
 $\frac{1}{8} \times \frac{1}{24} = \frac{1}{192}$   
 $\frac{1}{9} \times \frac{1}{27} = \frac{1}{243}$



2) [3] friends say, "where is your God?" (Mt. 16) (Mt. of Transf.)  
@ (202 miracle)  
Jesus' life ↑

It is no accident that Satan works at vulnerable times to defeat you.  
→ Job's wife - Why don't you curse God + die?

[4] Nostalgia - "I used to do this or that" - not remembering God. Rather just how "happy" he used to be compared to how "sad" he is today.  
Nostalgia is a way of escape - a cruel game.  
We tend to forget the negatives + remember the good.

This aggravates the problem of doubt + makes you feel worse, not a way to heal them.  
Bubble rises to the surface -> just serves to muddy the water.  
How to deal with doubt:

(v. 5) Addresses his soul -> seat of his emotions. Be silent.  
"Shut up" Today. We are told to flush the toilet "on our emotions all over the place. At this point we need to silence our emotions + silence the emotions of doubt + turmoil. Rather "Wait for God, for I shall still praise Him". We need to express emotions, but not let them control us. To follow Christ when you feel good is easy, but follow Him also when you feel bad. We are fallen all our lives. Even Jesus felt bad: BUT not what I will but Yours WILL be done" (Nethemane)

God is the only absolute, everything else changes.  
(1 Cor. 10: 5) Taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ - "set your mind on things above" - imperative (Col. 3: 2)  
Ponder the things of God



Handwritten notes on lined paper, heavily obscured by numerous red horizontal lines and scribbles. Some faint text is visible, including the word "Baton" and "John's life".

Baton

John's life

John's life - how did you measure it? →

John's life - how did you measure it? →

John's life - how did you measure it? →

John's life - how did you measure it? →

John's life - how did you measure it? →

John's life - how did you measure it? →

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John's life - how did you measure it? →

John's life - how did you measure it? →

John's life - how did you measure it? →



## Remembering deeds of God

(v. 6) "Remember God" - He did it before, He can do it again - one of the surest ways to dispel doubt & confusion - an anchor for your soul  
Compensates  
Babylon Unbelief no Psalms of thanksgiving, just petition  
Israel Believers Psalms of reviewing God's acts in history

2. "I thank you & believe!"

→ Apologetics: God's acts in history dispel doubts about His existence

Cultivate the art of remembering what God has done for you in the past <sup>Christ's</sup> Incarnation = "forgetting to remember" → look back down the spiral staircase of your walk in Christ. This is different from nostalgia - this is because God has worked in the past, I can trust him.  
→ I praise Him (David's - Absalom)

(v. 7-8) "Thy" breakers & "Thy" waves - Sovereignty of God, nothing happens by accident. Permitted for the good which will come out of the problem (Rom. 8:28) God doesn't create tragedy - uses tragedy to bring good e.g. "mystery of the Cross" worst event brings greatest blessing to all mankind  
Spiritual & learning more & more God is the God of your life: breakers & waterfalls trials & temptations. Must make a rational change of mind without regret → repentance to life

(v. 9-11) Addresses God honestly - asks "why have you forgotten me?" Don't play games - argue your ways before Him. Only when you've decided you won't trust Him are you in trouble (Phil. 4)

Don't need to understand why?



*[Faint, illegible handwriting on lined paper with red underlines and markings.]*

4

People look to other people to meet deepest need rather than God  $\Rightarrow$  divorce rate - make them feel good

$\Rightarrow$  God has made us for Himself only He  
can ultimately give you your answers..

Peace  $\leftarrow$  God through Jesus Christ

God is the very God of your life - Greatest lesson you can learn when doubt arises

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