



*Where Is Your God?*

**As with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me,  
while they say daily unto me,**

## **Where Is Your God?**

**A Study of Psalm 42**

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# Introduction

Has anyone ever questioned your faith? I had an experience in my early Christian walk where a guy that was not a Christian challenged me as to the validity of my belief in God. He said that God was “Man-Made” and therefore unable to save, heal or anything else. It was his belief that fate drove human life, not God’s love and power.

When sickness came knocking at my door, the guy would say, “So, where’s your Christianity now?” “If your God is all-powerful, why doesn’t He heal you? When I lost my Job, he again said, “So, where’s your God now.” Can’t your God do anything?

I was a brand new Christian and not very knowledgeable. I didn’t have an answer for him then. Now, after 60 years of walking with the Lord, I know a few things.... mainly that God does things His way and in His timing. Fate has no power. Things just don’t happen without a reason, even if we do not understand why. God is a Just God. He is the epitome of Love and Righteousness. Even though we go through difficulties, He is still there beside us to comfort us and deliver us from the calamities of life.

How many know that friends do not angrily say, “*Where Is Your God?*” It is the job of your enemy to say such a thing. That enemy wants you dead. If that can’t happen, he will go for confusion, backsliding and a faith failure if at all possible.... anything to cause you to turn against God. This strategy has been the key tool of Satan for centuries because it is a lie that is aimed at the less informed and can shake their foundation to the core.

The psalmist wrote in Psalm 42 about his enemies. They attacked him with the same strategy, “*Where IS Your God*” The verses of this psalm tell a store of a man that is overwhelmed, frustrated and confused but not in utter despair. His faith did not fail. It kept him through the storm, even though he didn’t know why he suffered so.



Let’s look at his life situation. If we look closely, we can see God in the life of a believer and learn how to deal with difficult circumstances.

## The God Seeker

The writer of the psalm was not your average believer that seeks spiritual things on Sunday and only at church. He was a God seeker. Read psalm 42 about his lifestyle and see if it fits yours.

*“As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?” Psalm 42:1-2*

When your relationship with God turns into a mere religion, you lose that hunger and thirst and slowly but surely stop seeking God. Then you fall away from the quest for real truth and cease from exercising faith. Is that happening to you? I hope not.

We need to be “God Seekers” that long for and seek after the presence of the Lord. We cannot live without it. We continually ask for it and seek after it. God is our refuge, our shield, our strength, and our very life. We move and live and have our being in Him.

This psalm teaches us that even though we are God Seekers, we can still experience vicious attacks against our faith and trust in God and suffer under cruel accusations from our enemies that are meant to destroy our relationship with God and kill our faith. In other words, we are not exempt because we are the children of God.

### Evil At Work

**!!! Read All About It !!!**

*“My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, **“Where is thy God?”** I will say unto God my rock, why hast thou forgotten me? Why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? As with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me, **“Where is thy God?”** Psalms 42:3-9-10*

Here’s what Jesus said about the enemy and Himself. He compared His goal for mankind with the goals of the devil, known as “The Thief” in Biblical literature.

*“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” John 10:10*

Note that the accusation, “Where Is Your God” brought tears to the write of Psalm 42. The continual mocking by his enemies overwhelmed him. It even caused him to go back to his rock, that being God, where he always found answers and refuge and question Him saying “*why hast thou forgotten me? Why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?*”

In today’s language expression, we would probably say, “Why Me Lord.” “What did I do wrong that you should stop protecting me from my enemies? He is feeling sadness. He is actually mourning over his situation. His focus has been shifted to himself instead of God where he once drew all of his strength and well-being.

**Question?** Why does he care about what his enemies think? So what if they continually mock his God. Hasn’t the psalmist had enough encounters with God to know He would never really forsake him? Unless, he is beginning to believe that God really has forgotten him. This is what the psalmist is indeed thinking...a lie of the devil that is like a fiery dart that, if allowed into the soul, will kill, steal and destroy.

## **The Recovery**

We all go through tough times and experience ridicule and even mocking from those that reject our Savior and our faith. You know how I know that’s true? “*Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*” II Timothy 3:12 It’s not what happens to us that alters our thinking or keeps us from walking with the Lord. It is rather how we react to what has happened that defeats us or brings us into victory and peace. See how the Psalmist deals with his situation.

He remembers the past, when he was so happy with the Lord; he rebukes his own soul for being cast down; and he makes an incredible statement of faith right in the face of his oppressors.

*“When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday.*

*Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.” Psalm 42:4-5*

**Note:** The Psalmist has not as yet learned why God has not been there for him. He is still sad about not knowing and the continual mocking from his enemies is getting to him, yet he puts his trust in God anyway. His trust is based upon past experiences where God was there and he was delivered. Though he did not understand it didn't mean that God wasn't working things out and has a good reason for what He is doing. This is not blind faith but rather faith based upon past experience.

If you are in a similar situation, there is no need to blame God...that is, if you know that He is a loving, kind, longsuffering and caring God who has your best interest at heart. God just doesn't bring evil our way.

Sometimes God will share His reasoning for what He does in our lives. Sometimes He won't. You'll remember Job and all he went through. He too cried out for an audience with God and had people telling him to repent and even curse God, yet he held off from blaming God and in the end never did find out why all those things fell upon him.

Again, it is not what happens to you but how you react to what happens that defeats you or delivers you.

## **Oh My God**

### **Pray, Pray And Pray Some More**

When we are cast down, we are somewhat incapacitated. We don't want to think, sometimes eat or even work. Being cast down is otherwise known as "Depression" and it's a killer if not overcome. It creates a feeling of being overwhelmed. You lose interest in life and your countenance shifts from happy to sad.

All of this was happening to the Psalmist. He was feeling all of this and probably even more. Could it be that all of this "Down" is a result of believing a lie that was drilled into him by his enemies?

“**Where IS Your God**” brings up additional questions and statements that are inferred in the original accusation. Statements like:

1. If you cannot see or feel God, Is He real?
2. If God is silent, does that mean He’s not real or doesn’t care?
3. If God doesn’t meet my timing, am I less important than others?
4. If I do not see the hand of God, does it exist?
5. If God doesn’t come to my rescue, is He all-powerful?

Because He is not acting like a bellhop tied to your every whim doesn’t mean He isn’t real or care or all-powerful. It only suggests that He is God and not you. Remember, with God, there is no finality unless He says so. He can raise you from the dead. He can cause old dry bones to live again. He can heal even after doctors give up. He is God and there is none beside Him.

Here’s what the psalmist did in the midst of his depression.

*“O my God, my soul is cast down within me: **therefore** will I remember thee from the land of Jordan, and of the Hermonites, from the hill Mizar. Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me. Yet the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the day time, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life.”* Psalm 42:6-8

It sounds to me like the psalmist is saying...”even though I am overwhelmed, sad, depressed and just not with it, I will remember you everywhere I go”

It seems like God has forgotten me but deep within my soul, I know He has not forgotten. In fact, I believe that God will be with me day and night. He will show me His love while I am awake and His song will comfort me as I sleep. What a powerful declaration of faith. Note that it is based upon past experiences with God. It isn’t just blind faith based upon a glimmer of hope.



## Self Examination Instruction And Comfort

When there is no one to help in times of trouble and God seems to be occupied somewhere else, what do you do? Some folks just fall apart under the stress. Others buy self-help books and listen to TV talk shows where popular actors give advice. Not so with this psalmist. He speaks directly to his own soul with Godly counsel that probably came to him from God a thousand times before in different situations. Here's what he tells himself.

*“Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted in me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him for the help of his countenance.”*  
Psalm 42:8

His counsel to himself is to chill out, calm down and get back to hopping in God. He tells himself that his future will be bright and that he will once again praise God for the help he needs. He actually call forth something that does not exist based upon all the other times that it did exist and demonstrates trust in God to be there for him, even though it seems like God is not there now.

How great is that? When we can speak for God based upon what He has done in the past. How great it is that we can also comfort ourselves with our past experiences with God. If He did it then, He'll do it again. I don't know how. I don't know when but He'll do it again because that is who He is.

## Conclusion

Now let me ask you the same question that the enemies of the psalmist asked him. **“Where Is Your God?”** Can you honestly say that you know where God is? Will He be there for you in times of trouble? Is He God or not? If He is not all-powerful, He is not God and you are kidding yourself and your faith is in vein.

Christianity is a living relationship with the only true and living God. It is not a religion or a crutch to get you through. You actually do hear the voice of God and see His handiwork in your life. There is a back and forth, not just a one-way communication. He answers prayer and leads us to a divine destiny.

The Bible tells us where God is. That's how we know and why we can put our trust in Him. Here are a few references so you know I am not just making up a story.

1. *“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, **I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.**” Hebrews 13:5*
2. *“Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee” Deuteronomy 31:6.*
3. *“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.” John 14:18*
4. *“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.” Joshua 1:9*
5. *“For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.” Isaiah 41:13*
6. *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” Psalm 23:4*
7. *“The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.” Proverbs 29:25*
8. *“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” II Timothy 1:7*
9. *“For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.” Romans 8:15*
10. *“Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your*

*head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.” Matthew 10:29-31*

11. *“Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Luke 12:32*

12. *“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;” John 14:16*

Do you now understand that God is with you, even if you don't see or feel Him. Your enemy will mock and ridicule you for following Jesus and being a “God Seeker” but that's ok. You want to know why it's ok?

Because, *“If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:”*

*Next time you are challenged to defend God, tell those folks that your God needs no instruction from them. He is doing His own thing and will accomplish all that He has chosen to do.*

*God is an **All-Powerful God**. That means He is never late. He can reverse anything that has been placed upon us, even after we die. He is the God of Resurrection and we are His children.*

**“Where Is Your God”** *If you are a child of God, God is your Heavenly Father and He is by your side at all times to be sure you make it through every calamity in life. His counsel and wisdom is at your disposal. His love and blessings are continually upon you. You are highly favored by God because of what Jesus did.*

*“Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!” Psalms 31:19*

Don't be afraid to trust Him and praise Him and worship Him in all that you do, even when He seems somewhat aloof. He is still there. Above all...don't give place to the mockers and critics that attack your faith and try to get you to doubt God's love. They will reap what they sow and die in their sins as you walk with the Holy Spirit straight into glory.