

The Battle to Remember God's Goodness

by David Wilkerson

The sermon emphasizes the importance of remembering God's goodness, especially in times of suffering, and trusting in Him to overcome the temptation to believe that our sufferings are unfair punishment.

Scripture: Psalm 73, Romans 8:28, James 1:12, 1 Peter 5:8-9

Topics: "Faith in Trials", "God's Goodness"

Description

David Wilkerson emphasizes the struggle of Asaph, the psalmist, who, despite recognizing God's goodness, faced deep doubts and envy when comparing his suffering to the prosperity of the wicked. Asaph's journey reveals the temptation to believe that his trials were a sign of God's neglect, leading him to almost slip into despair. However, he found strength by entering the sanctuary of God, where he meditated on the Lord and reaffirmed his trust in Him. Ultimately, Asaph's experience teaches us the importance of remembering God's goodness and maintaining faith during difficult times. The sermon concludes with Asaph's declaration of trust in God, highlighting the victory found in faith.

Transcript

Asaph, the psalmist who wrote Psalm 73, was a very close friend of King David. A pure-hearted man who believed in the goodness of God, he began his discourse in this psalm by saying, "Truly God is good to Israel, to such as are pure in heart" (73:1). In other words, "God has been good to me by giving me a clean heart." Yet in the very next verse, this dear man confesses, "I almost slipped! I almost fell into sin." Why does Asaph declare this?

We know from this psalm that Asaph was facing great troubles (see 73:14), and he struggled with comparisons. He says in verse 3: "For I was envious of the boastful, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked." Looking around him, he saw wicked people enjoying great wealth, which may have made him feel the pain of his own poverty more acutely. For whatever reason, this dear man cried out, "Lord, it doesn't make sense to me!"

Then he said to himself, "Look at all these sinners. They don't pray. They neglect God's Word and disobey him, yet they are not plagued as other men are" (see 73:5). What Asaph really meant was, "The wicked are not plagued as I am. They do only evil -- yet they prosper. While I am weak with sorrow, their strength only increases" (see verse 4).

So what was the sin that Asaph almost fell into? It was believing that his sufferings were unfair punishment from God -- that God was neglectful and unjust. This is a trap that any of us can fall into and we must be very careful!

When a trial comes, when you are grieving, you need to guard your heart against slipping. Asaph did this by going into the sanctuary of God (see 73:17). He meditated on the Lord and kept telling himself, "I'm not going to let the devil make me fall. I'm going to talk it out with the Lord."

Asaph almost slipped -- but he held on and ended the psalm on this note of victory: "I have put my trust in the Lord God, that I may declare all Your works" (73:28).

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