

Giving Light Devotional Podcast

EP31: His Nearness is my Good

Pulling from the wisdom of Psalm 73, in today's episode, we are reminded that on our own, we carry a limited perspective that can often lead to trouble. When we choose to enter into the presence of the Lord and cast our cares on Him, everything changes in the light of an eternal vantage point.

SCRIPTURES:

Psalm 73:1-3, "Truly God is good to Israel, to such as are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; my steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the boastful, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked." (NKJV)

Psalm 73:16-17, "When I thought how to understand this, it was too painful for me— Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I understood their end." (NKJV)

Psalm 73:16-17, "When I tried to understand it all, I just couldn't. It was too puzzling—too much of a riddle to me. But then one day I was brought into the sanctuaries of God, and in the light of glory, my distorted perspective vanished..." (TPT)

Psalm 73:21-26, "When I saw all of this, what turmoil filled my heart, piercing my opinions with your truth. I was so stupid. I was senseless and ignorant, acting like a brute beast before you, Lord. Yet, in spite of all this, you comfort me by your counsel; you draw me closer to you. You lead me with your secret wisdom. And following you brings me into your brightness and glory! Whom have I in heaven but you? You're all I want! No one on earth means as much to me as you. Lord, so many times I fail; I fall into disgrace. But when I trust in you, I have a strong and glorious presence protecting and anointing me. Forever you're all I need!" (TPT)

Psalm 16:11, "You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore." (NKJV)

Philippians 4:7, "...and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (NKJV)

1 Peter 5:7, "Pour out all your worries and stress upon him and leave them there, for he always tenderly cares for you." (TPT)

Isaiah 55:9, "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts." (NKJV)

Psalm 73:28, "But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I will tell of all your deeds." (NIV)

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Ask the Lord if there are any areas of your heart where you feel discontented or disheartened in your walk with Him. Are there any areas of comparison that have snuck in to create opportunity for bitterness or judgement?

- 2. Psalm 73 verse 17 says, *“But then one day I went into the sanctuary of God, and in the light of glory, my distorted perspective vanished.”* As you take time in the presence of the Lord, ask Him to bring clarity to any distorted perspectives you may have. Replace old thinking with what He reveals.

- 3. If there are any areas of your life where you feel that you are carrying the weight of the world, any area where your effort to understand has become puzzling or

painful, choose to submit these things to His presence. Trust that His eternal perspective will reveal the truth, and with it any part you may have in bringing forth the solution. Write down anything He reveals.

ACTIVATION:

Begin each morning reminding yourself that the nearness of God is your good (Psalm 73:28). As you go about your day, start to create a habit of inviting His presence into your thoughts, circumstances, and situations. In addition, set aside an amount of time, even if very short, to solely focus on His presence. Remember, in the light of His glory, everything changes.