

Despair or Hope

Negative World

- News
- Moral Decline
- Increasing anti-Christian sentiment
- Personal circumstance and struggles

How to Respond

- Natural response - despair, depression, negative attitude = no joy
- Ignore It?
- How should we respond as Christians

David's Example

- Psalm 3 and 4
- Context: David's son Absalom plans a to kill David and take his Throne

Psalm 3

Psalm 3 - Save Me, O My God

A Psalm of David, when he fled from Absalom his son.

O LORD, how many are my foes! Many are rising against me;

² many are saying of my soul, "There is no salvation for him in God."

³ But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.

⁴ I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answered me from his holy hill.

⁵ I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the LORD sustained me.

⁶ I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.

⁷ Arise, O LORD! Save me, O my God! For you strike all my enemies on the cheek; you break the teeth of the wicked.

⁸ Salvation belongs to the LORD; your blessing be on your people!

Psalm 4

Answer Me When I Call

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

² O men,^[a] how long shall my honor be turned into shame? How long will you love vain words and seek after lies?

³ But know that the LORD has set apart the godly for himself; the LORD hears when I call to him.

⁴ Be angry,^[b] and do not sin; ponder in your own hearts on your beds, and be silent.

⁵ Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the LORD.

⁶ There are many who say, “Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!”

⁷ You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound.

⁸ In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety.

Prayer and Faith

- Psalm 3:3-4: But you, Lord are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head. I cried aloud to the LORD, and he answers me from his holy hill.
- Psalm 3:7-8 Arise, O LORD! Save me, O my God! For you stike all my enemies on the jaw; you break the teeth of the wicked. Salvation belongs to the LORD; your blessing be on your people!
- Psalm 4:1 Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness! You have given me relief when I was in distress. Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

Joy

Psalm 4:6-7: There are many who say. “who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!” You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and win abound.

Peace

- Psalm 3:5-6 I lay down and sleep; I woke again, for the LORD sustained me. I will not be afraid of many thousands of people who have set themselves against me all around.
- Psalm 4:8 In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone LORD make me dwell in safety.

Bigger Picture

- Psalm 10 – Evil abounds
- We live under the new covenant
- We have a hope that doesn't fade
- We can see the important parts of the bigger picture

Hope in Heaven

Isaiah 65:17-25 Continued

“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness.

¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.

²⁰ No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed.

²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

Hope in Heaven

Isaiah 65:17-25 Continued.....

²² They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands

²³ They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, [d] for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them.

²⁴ Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear.

²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain,"
says the LORD.

Gods Judgement

- God wins in the end and evil is destroyed for ever
- For Christians, Jesus has taken the punishment for us
- Sometimes we are the ones causing despair in others life

Tension

- Yearn for Jesus return
- Yearn for Heaven
- Still have things on earth to do

Holy Spirit

- Fruit of the Spirit – Joy and Peace
- Sign for unbelievers
- Makes sense in light of what we know to have Joy and Peace
- Gotta work on them

Psalm 9

- Context not clear

Psalm 9:1-2

I will give thanks to the lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name
O most high.

- Always be thankful for Jesus death on the cross and hope in heaven no matter our worldly circumstances