

Let's Be Clear
When We Lose Perspective About Life
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Ecclesiastes 3:1 *For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.*

What I can forget is my current season will end and will eventually unfold another season. Part of maturing in the Living God is being anchored in truth. When life could not be any better – it's a season. When life is brutal – it's a season.

Psalms 73:1 *Truly God is good to Israel, to those whose hearts are pure.*

LOSING PERSPECTIVE

Psalms 73:2-16 *But as for me, I almost lost my footing. My feet were slipping, and I was almost gone. (WHY?) 3 For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness. 4 They seem to live such painless lives; their bodies are so healthy and strong. 5 They don't have troubles like other people; they're not plagued with problems like everyone else. 6 They wear pride like a jeweled necklace and clothe themselves with cruelty. 7 These fat cats have everything their hearts could ever wish for! 8 They scoff and speak only evil; in their pride they seek to crush others. 9 They boast against the very heavens, and their words strut throughout the earth. 10 And so the people are dismayed and confused, drinking in all their words. 11 "What does God know?" they ask. "Does the Most High even know what's happening?" 12 Look at these wicked people— enjoying a life of ease while their riches multiply. 13 Did I keep my heart pure for nothing? Did I keep myself innocent for no reason? 14 I get nothing but trouble all day long; every morning brings me pain. 15 If I had really spoken this way to others, I would have been a traitor to your people. 16 So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is!*

REGAINING PERSPECTIVE

Psalm 73:17-28 Then I went into your sanctuary, O God, and I finally understood the destiny of the wicked. 18 Truly, you put them on a slippery path and send them sliding over the cliff to destruction. 19 In an instant they are destroyed, completely swept away by terrors. 20 When you arise, O Lord, you will laugh at their silly ideas as a person laughs at dreams in the morning. 21 Then I realized that my heart was bitter, and I was all torn up inside. 22 I was so foolish and ignorant— I must have seemed like a senseless animal to you. 23 Yet I still belong to you; you hold my right hand. 24 You guide me with your counsel, leading me to a glorious destiny. 25 Whom have I in heaven but you? I desire you more than anything on earth. 26 My health may fail, and my spirit may grow weak, but God remains the strength of my heart; he is mine forever. 27 Those who desert him will perish, for you destroy those who abandon you. 28 But as for me, how good it is to be near God! I have made the Sovereign LORD my shelter, and I will tell everyone about the wonderful things you do.

Regaining perspective:

1. It often comes from being alone with God.
2. Often comes with raw honesty. Vs. 21, 22 – *Pride is scrubbed away.*
3. Changes our consuming thoughts of turmoil to recall our relationship with the Living God. Vs 23,24
4. Can change because of adoration directed to God.

Asaph gives an example of the way back.

1. When my perspective seems lost, I will remind myself of God's patience and love for me.
2. When my perspective is troubling and lingers on, I will remind myself that I belong to God and He's holding me (Palm 73.23).
3. When I feel like bailing on God, I will remind myself that any alternative to the Living God ruling my life will only plunge me deeper into despair. When I sense that I am going into a hard season, I will remind myself how often the hardest times in life create deep worship from life.

PRAYER OF SALVATION

Jesus, I thank You that You came and died on the cross for my sins so that I can be forgiven. I am a sinner and need Your grace, mercy, and forgiveness. I turn from my sins and say "No" to a life of living for myself. I turn to You and say "Yes" to Your will for my life. I ask You now to save me from my sins. I open my heart to You and receive You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for saving me and forgiving me. Amen.