

Psalms Chapter 42 Commentary

To the chief Musician, Maschil, (Maschil means instructive) for the sons of Korah.

Ps 42:1 "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God."

Hart has the first definition of *(in the sense of a ram) and secondly a stag or a male deer*. Panteth means *to long for*. This gives us the picture of David, as a child of God indwelt with the Spirit of God, just as we have the Spirit of God in us in the new birth. Well preacher, we did not think that the Old Testament saints had the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. We are told in **1Sa 16:13 "Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward."** Thus, we see that David was indwelt with the Holy Spirit. Once this happens, then our souls long for our Saviour and our God, with an unquenchable thirst. This is drawing power of God that drives us to assemble with God's people: It gives us the power to pray unto God for His felt presence in our lives: It gives us the power to desire to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ: It gives us the desire to read the bible, and the desire that God will reveal our Saviour unto us. All these things make us pant for the fountain of living waters of God.

2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?"

Soul means *the Jesus in us in the new birth, the being that we are in Christ*. Thirsteth means *to thirst or suffer*. Thus, we see the picture of our new nature in Christ desiring to see the face of the living God.

David asks: when shall I appear before God? There are two aspects here: one is when we are troubled and distressed, we desire to see the face of our Saviour on the throne of God there interceding for us. The second is we desire for the second coming of Jesus, to gather all of God's people into their eternal rest, to never be confronted with sin and Satan again. In other words: we wait for the redemption of our bodies, as seen in **Ro 8:25; 22 "For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. 23 And not only they, (they are the Old Testament saints) but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."** We understand that the eternal resurrection, of the dead in Christ, will not come until God's wills it to happen. So, in the meantime, we thirst after the presence of Jesus to be manifested in our lives.

3 "My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God?"

David says: in repentance of my sins, my weeping has been food, my bread, day and night. Why? Because David knows that God hears his prayers always. Have our own sins so overwhelmed us that we wept and mourned day and night? Have our tears of repentance been such that we were brought to remembrance of the bread of life we are given in Jesus Christ?

David is saying: my enemies continually ask of me **"Where is thy God?"** as they look upon my face of weeping and mourning. They do not see the joy of God's salvation glowing in my countenance. Thus, they ask for a reason of my hope in God. We are told in **1Pe 3:15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"** When we are in the slough of despondency, we need to remember what Jesus has told us in **Heb 13:5 "for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. 6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."** This is meat for the soul, which is weeping and mourning over sins.

4 "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."

David tells us: I remember the tender mercies of my God, and I pour out, give all of myself, to thee. David says, in past tense: I had gone with the multitude to the house of God, the tabernacle. This reminds us of when king David brought the tabernacle to Jerusalem, to have the place of worship of God near his throne. We brought the tabernacle of God, to its place in Jerusalem, with singing and with praise, *(an extension of the hand,)* which gives us the picture of the right hand of fellowship being extended to one another when God's people assemble today. David says: I came with the multitude of Israel who kept the holyday. Holyday means *to march in a sacred procession, to observe a festival; by implication, to be giddy, to celebrate, to dance, to hold a solemn feast*. Through these definitions: we see what a joyous occasion to assemble and worship God.

We see the prophetic picture of the New Testament church assembling with joy and gladness, remembering what Jesus did for us in his work of the eternal remission of our sins, and the gift of eternal life in the new birth. What do you mean? As David brought the tabernacle of God to Jerusalem, every time the church body gathers, we are bringing the tabernacle of God to the place we assemble. How? Our bodies are the tabernacle. Remember, the tabernacle was replaced with the temple, and we are told in **Co 6:19** *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"*

5 "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. 6 ¶ 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."

Why are we cast down (**depressed**) in soul? Why are we disquieted (**be in an uproar**) within? Hope (**wait with patience, trust**) thou in God. Worship God for the help (**Salvation or deliverance**) of his countenance (**to see the face, presence, or favor**). This tells us that when we assemble, we are not to assemble in despondency, but rather with gratitude that Jesus has wrought for us eternal remission of sins and salvation. Then we can see the face of God in Jesus: we can feel His presence, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and remember that we are found in favor with God the Father, because of the finished work of our Saviour.

Because we sometimes are depressed when we assemble, through fellowship, through singing psalms and hymns, and the preaching of the gospel of Jesus, we are brought to remembrance of our Saviour from the land of Jordan (**to descend to a lower region**) which is what Jesus did to bring about our eternal life in Christ. We remember the Hermonites (**to seclude or devote to religious services**) which is what Jesus did for us by establishing the New Testament Church, which we see from the hill Mizar (**meaning to be small or to be brought low**) which is what happens in the new birth. What do you mean? We are small positionally here in time, because we see the greatness of Jesus and his vastness as the King to who we are servant.

7 "Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me."

Waterspouts are places where waters from the deep are sprayed upward above the ground, What we call geysers, which are often accompanied by sounds of the deep. "**Deep calleth unto deep**" Jesus tells us in **Joh 4:14** *"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."* This gives us the picture of the assembly of the children of God and the wells of water springing up in each child of God, which turns to praise and worship of God as the deep things of God are revealed to each in turn. As these waterspouts sound forth the praises of Jesus, the waves (**meaning to bring to birth**) and the billows (**to roll away the stone**) remind us that the stone, placed to seal the tomb of Jesus, was rolled away that we may see it is empty, and that Christ is risen. (**Billows also means a spring of water**) which confirms the earlier use of the spring of water in each child of God, which is the risen Jesus. Thy billows are gone over me. Gone means **to carry or conduct over**, which gives us the picture of what will happen in the eternal resurrection. What do you mean? In the eternal resurrection, we will not convey ourselves to the eternal heaven. We will be carried by Christ to the place He has prepared for us.

8 "Yet the LORD will command his lovingkindness in the daytime, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life."

LORD, in all caps, is the Hebrew Jehovah, which means the self-existent God, or the essential nature of God. Lord, with only the L in caps, is the Hebrew word Adonay which means sovereign of ruler.

The LORD will command (**appoint or send a messenger**) which reminds us God the Father sent Jesus to save God's people from their sins. At the ascension of Jesus, the Holy Ghost was sent to earth to take the place of Jesus. His lovingkindness (**favor or mercy**) in the daytime. This tells us: when we have Jesus in view, the light of Christ is shining in our hearts and minds, and it is daytime. In the night (**to twist away from the light or adversity**) His song (**to sing**) shall be with me and my prayer unto the God of my life. Thus, when the light of Christ shines brightly in us we have day, but as we lose focus on the light it turns to night. However, even in the night we can sing praise and pray to God. Even in the night, we can see the reflection of the light of Christ in us, just as we can see the reflection of the light of the sun from the moon at night. This reminds us of what Paul is telling the Galatians in **Ga 4:18** *"But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only*

when I am present with you." Even when we do not feel the presence of God in our lives, we should be zealous toward God for He is always present in us. What a marvelous blessing to know that Jesus is in us.

9 "I will say unto God my rock, Why hast thou forgotten me? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?"

I will say unto God my Rock (**my high fortress**) which reminds us of Isaiah in *Isa 6:1 ¶ In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.*" We remember how the pillar, of the cloud of God's glory, descended upon the tabernacle and led God's people through their journey to the land of promise. Our bodies are the tabernacle of God, and we are filled with the cloud of the presence of God (the Holy Spirit in us) in the new birth.

"Why hast thou forgotten (to be oblivious of) **me?"** Why is God oblivious of us? Because we let some idol come between us and God. Why go I mourning because of the oppression (**distress or affliction**) of the enemy? Why do we go mourning before God? Because our enemy, the devil, has brought distress and affliction to our lives by reminding us of our past sins. It is necessary that we remember our Rock, Jesus Christ, and His finished work of our eternal salvation, that we may overcome the oppression and distress of evil.

10 "As with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me, Where is thy God?"

As with a sword (**crushing**) in my bones, mine enemies reproach (**defame of blaspheme**) me; while they say daily unto me, **"Where is thy God?"** The devil knows he cannot take away the gift of eternal life given to us by our Rock, Jesus Christ. However, he also knows that if he can defame and castigate our names, and we believe his lies and forget Jesus, it will be to us as though our bones are crushed and our bodies will collapse. This reminds us of the need for Jesus in us. How and why? Because, if you remember it was prophesied of Jesus in *Ex 12:46 "In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof."* This text is speaking of the passover Lamb, which is a picture of Jesus. We are reminded of this in *Joh 19:36 "For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken."* Therefore, if not a bone of Jesus could be broken, we can rest in the assurance, that the Jesus in us will not have a bone broken. It speaks to us of the surety of God's eternal salvation in our lives.

If we are asked today: **"Where is thy God?"** What is our answer? First, our God everywhere. He is in the eternal heaven. He is in the heavens. And, He is in our bodies, minds, and souls, in the form of the Holy Spirit.

11 "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God."

This is a repetition of verse 5 above, to remind us that we have no reason to be cast down, and we have no reason to be disquieted. Why? Because we have the assurance of our eternal salvation through Jesus Christ, which is why we continue to praise Him.

"For I shall yet praise him, who is the health (which means something saved eternally) **of my countenance** (our appearance), **and my God."** This reminds us of the eternal resurrection of the dead in Christ. This then leads us to ask ourselves: Am I getting a healthy diet of the Word of God, the bread of life from heaven, which will keep our appearance filled with the light of Christ in us? Am I assembling with the saints of God regularly, so that we be of one mind as seen in *Php 2:1-21 ¶ "If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, 2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."* Am I assembling regularly with the saints of God, and growing in knowledge of the Word of God, and the doctrines of truth? Am I being strengthened in the fervent and affectual prayers of the righteous man? as seen in *Ac 2:42 "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."* Am I forsaking the Lord's Supper?

May we never lose our focus upon the God of our eternal salvation. May we continue in praise and worship of His holy name, in our humility. May we never lose sight of the promise of our eternal life in the place that Jesus has gone to prepare for us. We ask in the name above all names, Jesus Christ, the beloved Son of God, Amen!