

# Longing For God

“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.  
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.  
When can I go and meet with God?”  
Psalm 42:1-2 (NIV)

**T**he Psalmist had a great problem.

He was suffering and people mocked his faith.

“Where is your God?” they cried. The people taunted the man and said there was no reason to trust in God for it appeared that God did not help His people in their times of need.

The Palmist cried out to the Lord and wept over the lack of an answer from his God. Psalm 42:9-10 (NIV)  
I say to God my Rock,  
“Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?” My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, “Where is your God?”

Back and forth the beleaguered man went from fear to faith and back to fear.

He seemed to have little comfort in his trial of faith. Yet he trudged on in spite of the howling crowds. He acted as though God cared when the evidence for that truth was lacking. Tears were his companions while he struggled to walk as a believer.

Have you ever been here? Read the whole of Psalm 42 and put yourself in the place of this tormented person. Feel his pain and ponder his distress. The Bible is so real and true to life. There is no dishonesty with the writers of sacred Scripture. They tell it like it is.

Take the words of this Psalm and make them your prayer today. If you feel abandoned by God, if you search for Him but cannot find Him, if you are being mocked by Satan and his workers, take this Psalm

and pray it over again and again.

Hear how the man of God concludes his trial of faith. This will most certainly be the end of the matter for you as the Holy Spirit comes to you and richly comforts you, showering you with the peace and love of God which passes understanding. Psalm 42:11 (NIV)

“Why, my soul,  
are you downcast?  
Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God,  
for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.”

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