



Out of the Depths – Part 1

42nd in the “Psalms” Series

Psalms 42

October 12, 2025

Pastor Casey Ehlers

Introduction

In this passage, the Psalmist laments and cries out to God, reflecting on God’s past provision to address a deep longing for God’s presence.

Structure:

--Psalm 42--

- The Absence of God (vv. 1-4)
- Refrain #1 – Put Your Hope in God (v. 5)
- Into the Depths of Grief (vv. 6-10)
- Refrain #2 – Put Your Hope in God (v. 11)

--Psalm 43--

- [Out of the Depths (vv.1-4)]
- [Refrain #3 – Put Your Hope in God (v. 5)]

Notes:

This Psalm teaches us that grief, depression, and feeling absent from God are common experiences in the Christian life.

This Psalm shows that Christians should meditate on God’s past provisions when failing to see or feel him in the present.

This Psalm of lament doesn’t resolve until Psalm 43, showing us that it is okay, and often necessary, to wait in these seasons of grief.

♪ *There's a statue of Jesus
On a monastery knoll
In the hills of Kentucky
All quiet and cold
He's kneeling in the garden
As silent as a stone
All his friends are sleeping
And He's weeping all alone
And the man of all sorrows
He never forgot
What sorrow is carried
By the hearts that he bought*

*So when the questions dissolve
Into the silence of God
The aching may remain
But the breaking does not*

*The aching may remain
But the breaking does not
In the holy, lonesome echo
Of the silence of God. ♪*

-The Silence of God by Andrew Peterson

Response: Church, may we always see the *goodness of the Lord in the land of the living* (Psalm 27:13) on the good days and especially on the bad days.

Sunday Text Questions

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Read the text aloud and discuss any significant observations or issues needing clarification.

- 1) Which line or phrase of Psalm 42 stands out most and why?
- 2) Does the Psalmist's poetic language of vv. 1-4 resonate with seasons of your life and walk with the Lord?
- 3) Compare the Psalmist's yearning (vv. 1-4) to his resolute confession of verses 5 and 11. What does this contrast teach us about the Christian life and faith in seasons of silence?
- 4) Do you think the church is a safe space to share feelings of depression, doubt, or grief like the Psalmist's cry in vv. 6-10. Why or why not?
- 5) The resolution of this Psalm 42 comes in the following Psalm (read Psalm 43 together). What does this pause teach us about waiting on the Lord? Are you currently waiting on the Lord for anything?
- 6) In what other ways did this passage speak into your life to teach, rebuke, correct, or train you in righteousness (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16)?

Further study this week: Passages related to the message of this week's text: Psalm 43 (Mon); Psalm 63 (Tues); Psalm 13 (Wed); Psalm 88 (Thurs); 2 Corinthians 4 (Fri).