



Out of the Depths – Part 2

43rd in the “Psalms” Series

Psalm 43

November 9, 2025

Pastor Casey Ehlers

Introduction

In this passage, the Psalmist resolves to worship God despite his circumstances, which appear to be unchanging.

Structure (Continued from October):

--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)

We are here.



Notes:

The painful lament of Psalm 42 turns into a prayer in Psalm 43:1: vindicate, plead, rescue.

The Psalmist finds confidence in God's character and the story of God.

The Psalms serve as a toolbox for the Christian who wants to learn to pray.

“The Psalms are acts of obedience, answering with God who has addressed us. God’s word precedes these words: these prayers don’t seek God, they respond to the God who seeks us. These responses are often ones of surprise, for who expects God to come looking for us? And they are sometimes awkward, for in our religious striving we are usually looking for something quite other than the God who has come looking for us. [...] The Psalms—all of which listen in order to answer—train us in the conversation.”

-Eugene Peterson

Response: Church, may the grace and gift of the Psalms help us be *like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.*
(Psalm 1:3)

Sunday Text Questions

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Read the text aloud and discuss any significant observations or issues that need clarification together.

- 1) Which line or phrase of Psalm 43 stands out to you the most and why?

- 2) What textual hints in Psalm 43 help show the reader that the Psalmist has grown in spiritual confidence (contrasted to Psalm 42)?

- 3) What does Psalm 43:2 teach us about the practice of lament in our prayers?

- 4) The Psalmist relies heavily on the character and story of God to persevere through trials and tribulations. What does this practice look like in your own life?

- 5) The Psalms teach us how to pray. Using only the words from Psalm 43 as guidelines, spend time in your Small Group praying back to God what He has revealed to you.

- 6) In what other ways, if any, 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 42 (Mon); Psalm 61 (Tues); Psalm 62 (Wed); Psalm 27 (Thurs); Psalm 55 (Fri).