

The Troubled Soul: God's Word and Our Feelings

Psalm 42

1. "No one is more influential in your life than you are because no one talks to you more than you do. You're in an unending conversation with yourself. You're thanking to yourself all the time, interpreting, organizing, and analyzing what's going on inside you and around you."
Paul Tripp
2. "Have you realized that most of your unhappiness in life is due to the fact that you are listening to yourself instead of talking to yourself?" *Martyn Lloyd Jones*
3. "You can't do this? Are there mercies which you haven't experienced? Even though you are gloomy now, how can you forget that blessed hour when Jesus met you, and said, 'Come to me'? Can't you remember that rapturous moment when He snapped your fetters, dashed your chains to the earth and said, 'I came to break your bonds and set you free?' Or if you've forgotten the love you felt at your wedding, surely there must be some precious milestone along the road of life not quite grown over with moss on which you can read a happy memorial of His mercy toward you? Don't forget what your God has done for you; turn over the pages of your mind, and remember the days gone by. Go back, then, a little way to the choice mercies of yesterday, and though all may be dark now, light up the lamps of the past, they shall glitter through the darkness, and you shall trust the Lord until the day breaks and the shadows flee away." *Charles Spurgeon*
4. "God's promises were never meant to be thrown aside as waste paper. He intended that they should be used. Nothing pleases our Lord better than to see His promises put in circulation. He loves to see His children bring them up to Him, and say, 'Lord, do as you promised.' We glorify God when we please His promises. Do you think that God will be any the poorer for giving you the riches He has promised? Do you dream that He will be any less holy for giving holiness to you? Do you imagine He will be any less pure for washing you from your sins? He has said, 'Come now, let us reason together,' says the Lord. 'Though your sins are red as crimson they shall be like wool.' Faith embraces the promise of pardon. It doesn't delay, saying, 'This is a precious promise, I wonder if it is true?' but goes straight to the throne with it, and pleads, 'Lord, here is the promise. Do as you promised.' Our Lord replies, 'Be it to you even as you will.' When a Christian grasps a promise but doesn't take it to God, then God is dishonored; but when one hastens to the throne of grace, and cries, 'Lord, I have nothing to recommend me but this, You have said it;' then the desire shall be granted. Our heavenly banker delights to cash His own notes. Never let the promise rust. Draw the word of promise out of its scabbard, and use it with holy violence. Don't think that God will be troubled by your importunately reminding Him of His promises. He loves to hear the loud outcries of needy souls. It is His delight to give favors. He is more ready to hear than you are to ask. It is God's nature to keep His promises. Therefore, go at once to the throne with, 'Do as You promised..'" *Charles Spurgeon*

God as Father: Understanding the Doctrine of Adoption

Galatians 4:1-7

1. "The question can be answered in many ways, but the richest answer I know is that a Christian is one who has God as Father... Our understanding of Christianity cannot be better than our grasp of adoption... The truth of our adoption gives us the deepest insights the New Testament affords into the greatness of God's love." *J.I. Packer*
2. "Observe, concerning the first advent, that the Lord was moving in it towards man. 'When the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son.' We moved not towards the Lord, but the Lord towards us. I do not find that the world in repentance sought after its Maker. No, but the offended God himself in infinite compassion broke the silence, and came forth to bless his enemies. All good things begin with him." *Charles Spurgeon*
3. "That justification-by which we mean God's forgiveness of the past together with his acceptance for the future-is the primary and fundamental blessing of the gospel is not in question. Justification is the primary blessing, because it meets our primary spiritual need. We all stand by nature under God's judgment; his law condemns us; guilt gnaws at us, making us restless, miserable and in our lucid moments afraid; we have no peace in ourselves because we have no peace with our Maker. So we need the forgiveness of our sins, and assurance of a restored relationship with God, more than we need anything else in the world; and this the gospel offers before it offers us anything else... But contrast this, now, with adoption. Adoption is a family idea, conceived in terms of love, and viewing God as father. In adoption, God takes us into his family and fellowship-he establishes us as his children and heirs. Closeness, affection and generosity are at the heart of the relationship. To be right with God the judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father is greater." *J.I. Packer*
4. "I once knew a good woman who was the subject of many doubts, and when I got to the bottom of her doubt, it was this: she knew she loved Christ, but she was afraid he did not love her. 'Oh!' I said, 'that is a doubt that will never trouble me; never, by any possibility, because I am sure of this, that the heart is so corrupt, naturally, that love to God never did get there without God putting it there.' You may rest quite certain, that if you love God, it is a fruit, and not a root. It is the fruit of God's love to you, and did not get there by any the force of any goodness in you. You may conclude, with absolute certainty, that God loves you if you love God." *Charles Spurgeon*