



Psalm 42 – Where Are You, God?

Even the most devoted Christians can go through periods of desert wilderness in their journeys of faith. There are times when you call and call, and there is no answer. There are times when your heart aches for some sense of the presence of God in your life—in days of challenge and change, of hope and disappointment, of loss and sorrow—but the void goes unfilled. That was the experience of the psalmist. *As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God? My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, 'Where is your God?'* He couldn't say.

In times such as that we are often inclined to give up on God, but this psalmist persisted. He remembered the times when God's presence was real and powerful for him. *These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.* Memory of days of spiritual certainty can help sustain us in days of spiritual uncertainty. *My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar. Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts; all your waves and your billows have gone over me. By day the LORD commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.* There is great power in memory, for with the memory of God's presence and activity in our lives in days past comes the renewed assurance that the God for whom we long will not desert us, but will turn again to our supplications. *Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.* Of that you can be certain.