

Psalms 73:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

Analysis

But it is good for me to draw near to God: I have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works. The psalm concludes with Asaph's settled resolution, answering the crisis that began in verse 2. The opening word "but" (va'ani, וְאַנְּיִ, "but as for me") echoes the same phrase from verse 2, creating an inclusio that frames the psalm's journey.

"It is good for me" (li-tov, טוב־לִ) responds directly to verse 1's affirmation that "God is good." Asaph has discovered that the good he envied in the wicked's prosperity was counterfeit. True good is found in nearness to God. "To draw near" (qirvat, קִרְבָּת) denotes approach, closeness, intimate access—the opposite of the distance Asaph felt during his crisis.

"I have put my trust in the Lord GOD" (samti baAdonai Yahweh machsi, שַׁתִּי בְּאָדוֹנִי יְהָוָה מַחְסֵּי) uses both divine titles—Adonai (Lord, Master) and Yahweh (the covenant name). Machseh (refuge, shelter) indicates that Asaph has made God his place of safety and protection.

"That I may declare all thy works" (lesapper kol-mala'khotekha, לְסַפֵּר כָּל־מְלָאֳכֹתֶיךָ) reveals the purpose of his restored faith: testimony. The verb saphar means to recount, tell, declare. Having experienced God's restoration, Asaph commits to proclaiming God's works—including the very psalm we have just read.

Historical Context

The conclusion demonstrates that Asaph's crisis produced not mere survival but mission. His struggle became the content of his declaration. Psalm 73 itself is the fulfillment of his resolve to declare God's works.

The concept of drawing near to God was central to Israel's worship system. Priests drew near to offer sacrifices; the people drew near through prescribed means. The Hebrew root qarav underlies the word for "offering" (qorban)—sacrifice was the means of drawing near. For New Testament believers, Christ's sacrifice enables permanent nearness: "let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith" (Hebrews 10:22).

Testimony of God's works was a primary function of Israelite worship. Psalms regularly recount God's mighty acts in creation, exodus, and providence. By declaring what God has done, the community reinforced faith and invited future generations into the same trust.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Asaph's conclusion ('it is good for me to draw near to God') answer the envy he expressed earlier?
2. What does it mean to 'draw near' to God in practical, daily terms?
3. How does personal crisis, when resolved through faith, become material for testimony?

4. What 'works' of God might you declare based on your own journey through doubt to faith?

Interlinear Text

בָּאָדָן יְשַׁתִּי שַׁתִּי יְאָנִי
 ט וּבְלִי אֱלֹהִים קָרְבָּתִי יְאָנִי
 But for me to draw near to God it is good I have put in the Lord
 H589 H7132 H430 H2896 H7896 H136

מְלָאכֹתֵיכֶן כָּל לְסֻפָּר מְחַסֵּי יְהוָה
 GOD my trust that I may declare all thy works
 H3069 H4268 H5608 H3605 H4399

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 40:5 (References God): Many, O LORD my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

James 4:8 (References God): Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Psalms 65:4 (Good): Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple.

Psalms 118:17 (References Lord): I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.

Psalms 71:24 (Parallel theme): My tongue also shall talk of thy righteousness all the day long: for they are confounded, for they are brought unto shame, that seek my hurt.

Psalms 84:10 (References God): For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

1 Peter 3:18 (References God): For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

Psalms 71:17 (References God): O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works.

Psalms 116:7 (References Lord): Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee.

Psalms 14:6 (References Lord): Ye have shamed the counsel of the poor, because the LORD is his refuge.

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