

Does It Really Pay to Do Right?

Psalms 73:1-28 GNB

1 God is indeed good to Israel, to those who have pure hearts. **2** But I had nearly lost confidence; my faith was almost gone **3** because I was jealous of the proud when I saw that things go well for the wicked. **4** They do not suffer pain; they are strong and healthy. **5** They do not suffer as other people do; they do not have the troubles that others have. **6** And so they wear pride like a necklace and violence like a robe; **7** their hearts pour out evil, and their minds are busy with wicked schemes. **8** They laugh at other people and speak of evil things; they are proud and make plans to oppress others. **9** They speak evil of God in heaven and give arrogant orders to everyone on earth, **10** so that even God's people turn to them and eagerly believe whatever they say. **11** They say, "God will not know; the Most High will not find out." **12** That is what the wicked are like. They have plenty and are always getting more. **13** Is it for nothing, then, that I have kept myself pure and have not committed sin? **14** O God, you have made me suffer all day long; every morning you have punished me. **15** If I had said such things, I would not be acting as one of your people. **16** I tried to think this problem through, but it was too difficult for me **17** until I went into your Temple. Then I understood what will happen to the wicked. **18** You will put them in slippery places and make them fall to destruction! **19** They are instantly destroyed; they go down to a horrible end. **20** They are like a dream that goes away in the morning; when you rouse yourself, O Lord, they disappear. **21** When my thoughts were bitter and my feelings were hurt, **22** I was as stupid as an animal; I did not understand you. **23** Yet I always stay close to you, and you hold me by the hand. **24** You guide me with your instruction and at the end you will receive me with honour. **25** What else have I in heaven but you? Since I have you, what else could I want on earth? **26** My mind and my body may grow weak, but God is my strength; he is all I ever need. **27** Those who abandon you will certainly perish; you will destroy those who are unfaithful to you. **28** But as for me, how wonderful to be near God, to find protection with the Sovereign Lord and to proclaim all that he has done!

Four Temptations

Temptation to Be Discouraged

While we are living for the Lord we face temptation to look at others and get discouraged.

When we look at things externally it is easy to slip into an idea that it pays to do wrong. We compare what we have to what they have.

Temptation to Judge

While we are living for the Lord we face temptation to judge that righteous living isn't worth it.

Temptation to View Obedience as Judgment

As we follow the Lord we face the temptation to view obedience to God as a form of punishment. We don't want to be punished by the world because we follow God. Or we think that God is punishing us for some reason.

Temptation to Complain

As we serve the Lord we face the temptation to verbalize our complaints and question to others, instead of talking to God.

People don't know whether or not it is worth it to serve God. Only He can show you the truth.

Therefore, **don't give in to the temptation to stop doing right.**

Galatians 6:9 AMP

And let us not lose heart and grow weary and faint in acting nobly and doing right, for in due time and at the appointed season we shall reap, if we do not loosen and relax our courage and faint.

There is a difference between *something* and the *right thing*.

The Key to Staying Strong

The Presence Of God

Isaiah 40:29-31 AMP

29 He gives power to the faint and weary, and to him who has no might He increases strength [causing it to multiply and making it to abound]. **30** Even youths shall faint and be weary, and [selected] young men shall feebly stumble and fall exhausted; **31** But those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] shall change and renew their strength and power; they shall lift their wings and mount up [close to God] as eagles [mount up to the sun]; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint or become tired.

Being in the presence of God will strengthen you in the face of these temptations.

When you separate from God's presence these temptations seem to make sense.

Fellowship

Fellowship with godly people and staying close God's House keeps our eyes open to the truth.

When the Psalmist came into God's house, among God's people, things made sense again.

Those outside are not living a dream life but they are living in a dream world. The spiritual realities of the kingdom are more real than the natural realities around us (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:46).

Hebrews 10:23-25 NKJV

23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. **24** And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and

good works, **25** not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

A Relationship with God and His Gift If Righteousness

We must remind ourselves that even if we have everything that the world can possibly give, we are to be pitied if we do not have the Lord and His righteousness.

Matthew 16:26 NKJV

For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

There is no value we can place on the righteous, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Conclusion

If we walk out now, you'll miss the happy ending. If you walk out too soon, you'll miss the best part.

Don't walk out.

On God

On your marriage

On serving

If you leave too soon, you'll miss all the good that God has for you.