
⁹ "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Isaiah 55:10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

¹² You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. ¹³ Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine tree, and instead of briars the myrtle will grow. This will be for the LORD's renown, for an everlasting sign, which will not be destroyed."

Shift #3: from outcomes to...

W & H -God acts: r !

Psalm 77:15 With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. Selah

Psalm 77:16 **The waters saw you, O God, the waters saw you and writhed; the very depths were convulsed.** ¹⁷ The **clouds** poured down water, the **skies** resounded with **thunder**; your arrows flashed back and forth. ¹⁸ Your thunder was heard in the whirlwind, your **lightning** lit up the world; the **earth** trembled and quaked. ¹⁹ **Your path led through the sea, your way** through the mighty waters, though **your footprints were not seen.** ²⁰ You **led** your people **like a flock by the hand** of Moses and Aaron.

Key: pg 1: need; can't; God; never. Complacency #1;

pg 2: Complacency #2; pg 3: What; do; Who; holy;

pg. 4: Why / How; redemptively

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Despair and Hopelessness

How Life Feels—part 10

June 28, 2020

The anatomy of despair:

I know what I n_____.

I c_____ get it.

G_____ won't give it.

It may n_____ come.

1. I know what I need.

This belief produces _____#1 towards God.

2. I can't get it.

Psalm 77:1 I cried out to God for help; I cried out to God to hear me. ² When I was in distress, I sought the Lord; **at night** I stretched out untiring hands and my soul refused to be comforted.

Psalm 77:3 I remembered you, O God, and I groaned; I mused, and my spirit grew faint. Selah

- a. "I groaned"—
- b. "I mused"—
- c. "My spirit grew faint"—

3. God's not giving it.

Psalm 77:4 **You kept my eyes from closing**; I was too troubled to speak.

When God is not giving us what we believe we need we will experience C _____ #2 toward God.

Psalm 77:5 I thought about the former days, the years of long ago;

Psalm 77:6 I remembered my songs in the night. My heart mused and my spirit inquired:

4. It may never change.

Psalm 77:7 "Will the Lord reject forever? Will he never show his favor again?

⁸ Has his unfaithful love vanished forever? Has his promise failed for all time?

⁹ Has God forgotten to be merciful? Has he in anger withheld his compassion?" Selah

3 Huge Value Shifts

Shift #1: from outcomes I want to...

W _____ God wants to d _____!

Psalm 77:10 Then I thought, "To this I will appeal: the years of the right hand of the Most High."

Psalm 77:11 I will **remember** the **deeds** of the LORD; yes, I will remember your **miracles** of long ago.

Psalm 77:12 I will meditate on all your **works** and consider all your **mighty deeds**.

Shift #2: from outcomes to...

W _____ God is: h _____!

Psalm 77:13 Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so **great** as our God?

¹⁴ You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.

Exodus 15:11 "Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you-- majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?"

Isaiah 55:8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.