

WHEN IN DOUBT ...

Psalms 42-43

When the (in) famous atheist, Richard Dawkins, meets God he intends to ask, “Sir, why did you go to such great pains to hide yourself?” Maybe you’ve wondered why God lets you struggle with doubt when He has the power to pull back the curtain and reveal Himself openly.

I don’t pretend to know the full answer; but I do know that doubt has a way of separating fans from friends, admirers from worshippers and groupies from true followers. Since God is only interested in true friends, worshippers and followers, He hides Himself to see who’s who.

When fans, admirers and groupies experience doubt, they lose faith and walk away. What about the others? What do they do when they experience doubt? Psalms 42 and 43 were written by a true friend of God, a worshipper and a follower who was experiencing doubt. These two Psalms, which are actually a single poem, tell us what he did when he was in doubt.

WHEN IN DOUBT ... RECALL – 42:1-5

- When in doubt this true friend of God recalled moments in the past when God’s grace had burst into his life and things happened that can only be explained as acts of God.

- What are some grace moments you've experienced? Recalling those moments can help you overcome doubt and revive your faith.

WHEN IN DOUBT ... RECONNECT – 42:6-11

- When in doubt this true worshipper of God retreated to his favourite sanctuary where he rested in God's loving kindness and poured out his heart in honest prayer.
- What is your favorite sanctuary where you are able to reconnect with God? Going there, resting in God's love and pouring out your heart is a great way to overcome doubt and revive your faith.

WHEN IN DOUBT ... RELY – 43:1-5

- When in doubt this true follower of God pressed in to God and relied on him to lead him through the darkness. He decided that he would rather walk in the darkness with God than search for the light on his own.
- When you face dark periods you have a choice. Would you rather look for the light on your own? Or walk in the darkness with God? It's in the darkness that we get to know God best.

Of all the ways to overcome doubt, these two Psalms show the most reliable way. Most forms of Christian apologetics rely on reason and get us to think about God, while way shown by these Psalms puts us in touch with God and gets us to experience Him for ourselves.