

# **A Song of Confession**

*Ray Stedman*

## I. Introduction.

A. Text: Psalm 73.

B. This third book of Psalms corresponds to Leviticus.

1. The key to Leviticus is the tabernacle that is a picture of Jesus Christ.
2. Leviticus corresponds to the book of Hebrews in the New Testament.
3. The sanctuary is frequently mentioned in the Psalm for help.

II. The Psalmist was troubled between the tension between God seemingly helping the wicked and leaving the righteous.

A. The Psalms covers our own experience.

B. The problem is that either God is seemingly not one of love or power otherwise He would do something about it.

## III. Steps to solving the problem of a downward slide.

A. Instead of spreading unbelief, he chose to keep his mouth shut as opposed to threatening the faith of others.

B. He came before the presence of God.

1. This is the most vital part of the Psalm.
2. He started thinking supernaturally—from God's point of view.
3. Spiritual thinking is centered on God.
4. We ourselves are the sanctuary, and we draw close to Him as we expose ourselves through prayer or fellowship.

C. This man came to the place where his thinking was cleared up about the ungodly.

D. The man did not stop with correcting his thinking—he honestly faced himself.

1. He saw that he was stupid—he worked up the problem himself.
2. He learned that he was ignorant of his own need, of God's love, of the whole record of the Scriptures, and that he was acting like an animal.
3. He realized that God still loved him and has not cast him aside.

E. He finds forgiveness, God’s restraining hand, God’s guidance and the end of the Christian—glory.

F. The man came to the place where he could say that God was his strength and portion—God was his utter adequacy in all circumstances.

IV. Conclusion: God does keep His Word, so God becomes the man’s refuge.

**Application questions:**

1. What theological issue was the Psalmist facing? Have you ever faced a similar issue? Explain.

---

---

2. Why was coming to the presence of God so crucial for the Psalmist? What did this mean to him?

---

---

3. How would you counsel someone facing these issues? Explain.

---

---