

Unshaken by Sickness

Unshaken – Part 4

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August 23, 2026

Psalm 73:1–28 (ESV)

- 1 Truly God is good to Israel,
to those who are pure in heart.*
- 2 But as for me, my feet had almost
stumbled,
my steps had nearly slipped.*
- 3 For I was envious of the arrogant
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.*
- 4 For they have no pangs until death;
their bodies are fat and sleek.*
- 5 They are not in trouble as others are;
they are not stricken like the rest of
mankind.*
- 6 Therefore pride is their necklace;
violence covers them as a garment.*
- 7 Their eyes swell out through fatness;
their hearts overflow with follies.*
- 8 They scoff and speak with malice;
loftily they threaten oppression.*
- 9 They set their mouths against the heavens,
and their tongue struts through the earth.*
- 10 Therefore his people turn back to them,
and find no fault in them.*
- 11 And they say, "How can God know?
Is there knowledge in the Most High?"*
- 12 Behold, these are the wicked;
always at ease, they increase in riches.*
- 13 All in vain have I kept my heart clean
and washed my hands in innocence.*
- 14 For all the day long I have been stricken
and rebuked every morning.*
- 15 If I had said, "I will speak thus,"
I would have betrayed the generation of
your children.*
- 16 But when I thought how to understand this,
it seemed to me a wearisome task,*
- 17 until I went into the sanctuary of God;
then I discerned their end.*
- 18 Truly you set them in slippery places;
you make them fall to ruin.*
- 19 How they are destroyed in a moment,
swept away utterly by terrors!*
- 20 Like a dream when one awakes,
O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you
despise them as phantoms.*
- 21 When my soul was embittered,
when I was pricked in heart,*
- 22 I was brutish and ignorant;
I was like a beast toward you.*
- 23 Nevertheless, I am continually with you;
you hold my right hand.*
- 24 You guide me with your counsel,
and afterward you will receive me to
glory.*
- 25 Whom have I in heaven but you?
And there is nothing on earth that I
desire besides you.*
- 26 My flesh and my heart may fail,
but God is the strength of my heart and
my portion forever.*
- 27 For behold, those who are far from you
shall perish;
you put an end to everyone who is
unfaithful to you.*
- 28 But for me it is good to be near God;
I have made the Lord GOD my refuge,
that I may tell of all your works.*

In sickness, Christ Followers can distort their perspective towards...

- Envy and COMPARISON. (Psalm 73:3-5)
- TRUSTING OUR EYES over God's truth. (Psalm 73:6-12)
- DESPAIR. (Psalm 73:13-14)

Christ Followers see life clearly when they GO TO GOD. (Psalm 73:16-17)

Going to God reminds us of Christ Followers ETERNAL HOPE.

Romans 6:23 (ESV)

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Every person has earned death and eternal separation from God because of their sin. (Romans 3:23)
- God sent His Son to live a sinless life and die on the cross for every person's sins. (Roman 5:8)
- Each person can have eternal life with God if they confess that Jesus is Lord and believe that he was raised from the dead. (Romans 10:9)

With God's perspective, Christ Followers choose hope and live in the reality that...

- Those without God can be DESTROYED. (Psalm 73:18-19)
- God GUIDES His people in this life and receives them into ETERNAL GLORY. (Psalm 73:23-24)
- God's strength lasts FOREVER. (Psalm 73:25-26, 28)

Psalm 73 Outline for Prayer

- Be honest with God.
 - If you feel like you are being picked on compared to other people, let God know.
 - If you think you deserve this sickness because of past sin, thank God for saving you from your sins and ask for his mercy.
- Don't get stuck in being honest with God and what might be bad perspective.
 - Ask God to help you see your sickness or trouble clearly from His perfect perspective.

- Pray the truth that...
 - The ease of life those without God seem to have is meaningless compared to eternity with God.
 - God is with you and guiding you.
 - Thank Him for specific ways you have seen Him guide you forward.
 - You might have trouble in this world BUT God will receive you in glory.
 - Your flesh might be failing but God is the strength of your heart and portion FOREVER.
- Honestly pray verse 28 to God, “But for me it is good to be near you; I have made you my refuge, help me to tell of all your works.”

My Next Step today is to...

- ☐ Memorize Psalm 73:28.

Psalm 73:28 (ESV)

*²⁸ But for me it is good to be near God;
I have made the Lord God my refuge,
that I may tell of all your works.*

- ☐ Pick a habit to put into practice this week. (Circle One)

Prayer	Reading the Bible
Joining a Group	Serving on a Team

- ☐ Attend the At the Table Message Series that begins next Sunday.