

# When Good Things Happen to Bad People

## Psalm 73

Surely God is good to Israel,  
to those who are pure in heart.  
<sup>2</sup>But as for me, my feet had almost slipped;  
I had nearly lost my foothold.  
<sup>3</sup>For I envied the arrogant  
when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

**First: Life's unfairness can make us doubt God.**

### Outwardly

Verse 4: "They have no struggles"

Verse 5: "They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills."

### Physically

Verse 4: "...their bodies are healthy and strong."

### Verbally

Verses 8-9

"They scoff, and speak with malice;  
with arrogance they threaten oppression.

<sup>9</sup>Their mouths lay claim to heaven,  
and their tongues take possession of the earth."

### Influentially

Verse 10, "Therefore their people turn to them and drink up waters in abundance."

### His Dangerous Conclusion

Verse 13, "Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure and have washed my hands in innocence."

**Second: Reflecting on God's Word with God's people can restore our faith.**

**Remedy #1: Consideration of God's People**

Verse 15: "If I had spoken out like that, I would have betrayed your children."

**Remedy #2: Contemplation of God's Word**

Verses 16-17

"When I tried to understand all this,  
it troubled me deeply  
<sup>17</sup>till I entered the sanctuary of God;  
then I understood their final destiny."

**Result #1: Confession**

Verses 21-22

"When my heart was grieved  
and my spirit embittered,  
<sup>22</sup>I was senseless and ignorant;  
I was a brute beast before you.

**Result #2: Profession**

Verses 23-26

"Yet I am always with you;  
you hold me by my right hand.  
<sup>24</sup>You guide me with your counsel,  
and afterward you will take me into glory.  
<sup>25</sup>Whom have I in heaven but you?  
And earth has nothing I desire besides you.  
<sup>26</sup>My flesh and my heart may fail,  
but God is the strength of my heart  
and my portion forever."

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