

Prayer: The Garden of Weeping

(*Churning & Turning in Pain*)

(Psalm 42 & Psalm 43)

When the “Garden of Weeping” becomes our “Garden of Prayer” we find true comfort, real help and good hope—not in a *religion* but in a *relationship* with the Living God.

I. “Global Insight” from the Psalms [*Think globally: Cry locally.*”]

A. It’s all right to cry! [The world may say “No,” but God says “YES.”]

B. Crying is appropriate & necessary

1. The World’s *Escape Plan* (*Get over it! Get around it! Get into it!*)
2. God’s *Welcome*: “Come into My Garden... Make Your “Garden of Weeping” Our “Garden of Prayer.” (*Together we’ll get through it.*)

II. “Local Insight” from Psalms 42 & 43 (originally one Psalm)

- The movement: “Transformation of a Refrain” or “Anatomy of a Spiritual Awakening”

A. Churning in Pain

1. Stanza 1 – Remembering Religion
 - a. past activities & honors
 - b. talking to self about self
2. Stanza 2 – Remembering God
 - a. present confusion
 - b. talking to self about God
3. Refrain
 - a. emphasis on 1st half (disturbed soul)
 - b. insincere questions
 - c. half-hearted religious solutions & promises
4. Center verse (v.8): Deep truth not yet realized
5. Question: “Where is your God?”
 - a. Stanza 1 (v.3) = “in my past”
 - b. Stanza 2 (v.10) = “I don’t know... not here.”
 - c. Between Stanza 2 & 3 (betw. the Psalms)
 - i. TURNING Point
 - ii. *Now I know! He is here with me!*

B. Turning to God... Stanza 3 – Praying in the Present...

1. Present Petitions & Future Hopes
2. TALKING TO GOD! – PRAYER!

Additional Notes: