

WHEN GOD'S FACE TURNS

PSALM 30

Psalm 30 [NRSV, modified] A Psalm. A Song at the
dedication of the temple. Of David.

1 I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my
foes rejoice over me.

2 O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.

3 O Lord, you brought up my soul from the grave, restored me to life from
among the dying.

4 Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to
his holy name.

5 For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

6 As for me, I said in my prosperity, “I shall never be moved.”
7 By your favor, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain;
you hid your face; I was dismayed.

8 To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication:

9 “What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the grave?

Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

10 Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!”

11 You have turned my mourning into dancing;

you have taken off my mourning clothes and clothed me with joy,

12 so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

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WHY DID GOD HIDE HIS FACE? TWO OPTIONS:

- Option 1: Psalmist sinned
 - “ease/prosperity”—> pride(?)
 - “I shall never be moved” (v.6)
 - statement of pride
 - E.g.: Isaiah 54:7—8
 - Advantage: option 1 makes sense of way God works: he dispenses rewards for good behaviour and consequences for sin
 - Problems: vending machine God & assuming Psalmist sinned

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- Option 2: Psalmist didn't sin; God acts in manner that isn't explained
 - “You established me as a strong mountain” (v.7)
 - gives God the credit for “ease/prosperity”
 - E.g.: Job
 - Advantage: option 2 explains why no sin, repentance, or forgiveness is mentioned
 - Problems: don't know why God acts this way or why bad things happen

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