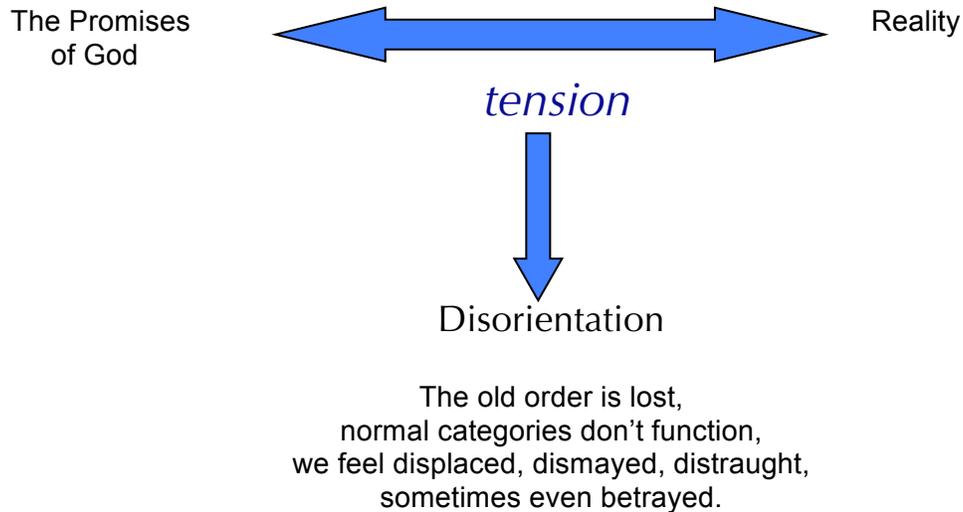


THE DYNAMIC MOVEMENT WITHIN THE PSALM

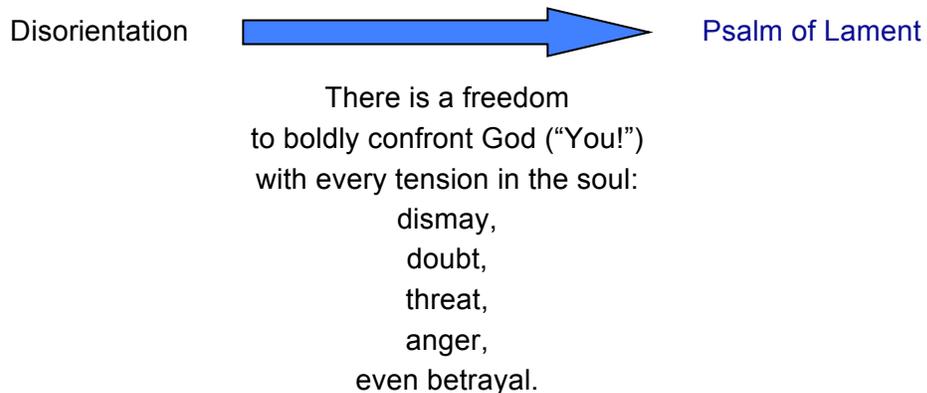
I. The Opening Tension that Initiates Prayer



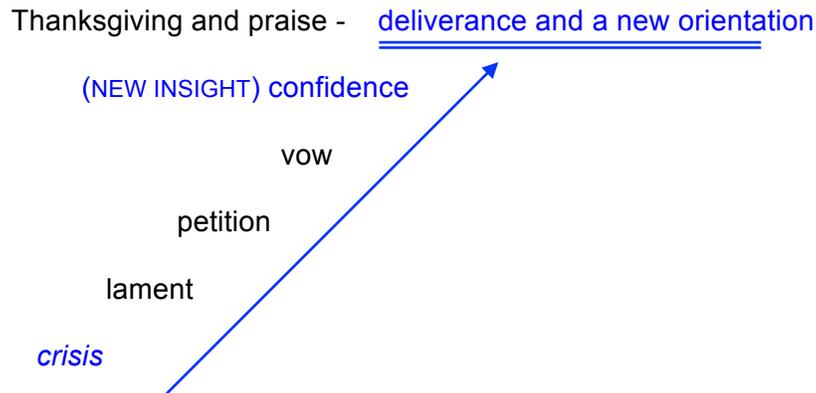
II. The Common Reaction to Doubt and Disorientation

1. Denial to preserve the old orientation
2. We feel alone and isolated in our doubts
3. We make mention of the pain, but move quickly to praise too avoid embracing the pain
4. After a long season of denial, we finally vent our pent up disillusionment on others privately (perhaps a counselor), but never find integration in worship.

III. David's Response to Doubt and Disorientation



IV. The Path from Tension to Praise



V. The Voice of Praise and Thanksgiving

1. The Object of Praise – an awesome God

- a. Surprising awe – the impossible (“*nephalot*” – wonders) happens!
- b. A new creation not expected
- c. A new orientation with a new coherence that holds life together
- d. A new covenant of immeasurable grace
- e. Vows are fulfilled – this becomes David’s life purpose!

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
You have loosed my sackcloth and girded me with gladness,
That my soul may sing praise to you and not be silent.
O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.” (Ps 30:11-12)

So I will sing praise to your name forever,
That I may pay my vows day by day. (Ps 61:8)

2. The Language of Praise – metaphors of memory

David seizes a plethora of metaphors from Israel’s Exodus in his attempt to express his appreciation for the magnitude of what God did for him in delivering him from Saul.

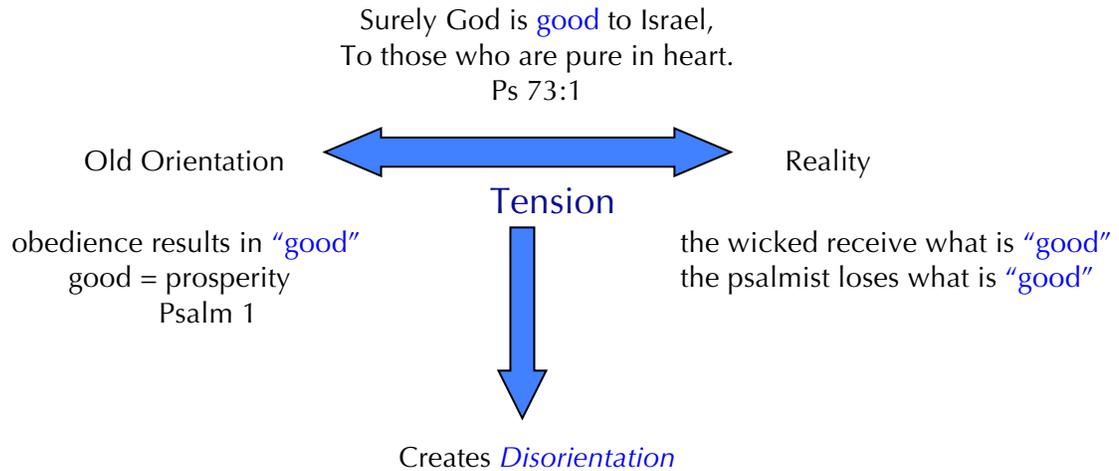
Then the channels of water appeared,
And the foundations of the world were laid bare.
At Your rebuke, O LORD,
At the blast of the breath of your nostrils.
He sent from on high, he took me;
He drew me out of many waters. (Ps 18:15-16)

3. The Act of Praise – bold abandonment

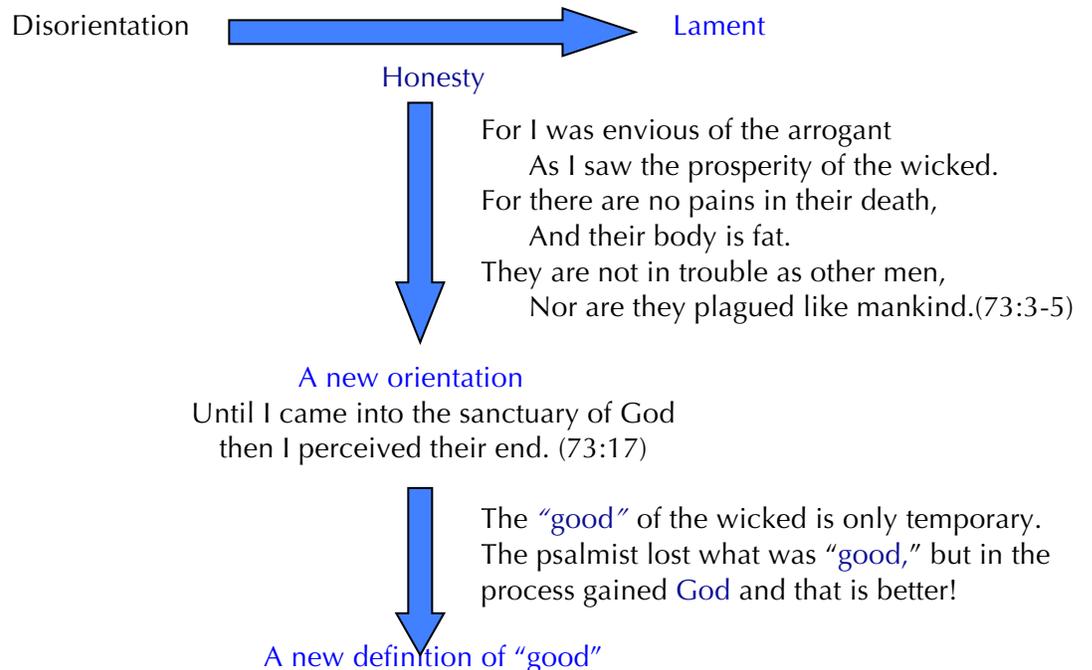
And David was dancing before the LORD with all *his* might... (2 Sam 6:14)

4. The Reorientation of Praise – new definitions

- a. Old orientations and definitions conflict with present reality



- b. The honesty in the lament achieves a new orientation and definition



But as for me, the nearness of God is my **‘good’!** (Ps 73:28)

VI. The Dynamics of the Life of Faith

Songs of
Lament:
disoriented



Songs of Praise and
Thanksgiving:
reoriented

The life of faith is lived at these extremities
where we are constantly vulnerable,
conflicted and unable to be in control,
yet at the same time,
when God answers our cries of desperation
we are filled with surprising awe
and wonder.

VII. Do You Have a Voice?

1. Buy a blank book:

The First Book of Psalms of

2. Read and reflect on one of David's psalms
3. Allow David's voice to shape your voice and to create new metaphors of your own
4. Ask God for a stage to share your voice
5. Encourage others to share their voice
6. Perhaps God will send a musician to put one of your psalms to music