

Psalm 13

Psalms 13:1-2 [NIV] *“How long, O LORD? Will you forget me for ever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and every day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me?”*

In this Psalm the phrase “how long” occurs four times in the first two verses of this prayer of David to a God in whom he had total faith.

David frequently expressed his longing for God to act quickly in what was to him an urgent problem.

Through prayer we can express our deepest feeling to God about a problem we see in society and He will then help us to gain a right perspective.

It is a common temptation when trouble lasts a long time we feel it will last forever.

People who have lived long without joy in their lives begin to be without hope.

We have in these verses an example of how despair and hope pursue each other in a closed circle from which we find it difficult to escape.

The aspects of such sorrow as we see David expressing are –

A sense of being forsaken by a God who has forgotten us;

The hopelessness that a person feels who cannot get through to a God who continually hides Himself;

A sense of inner hurt and grief and defeat.

These are **not** disconnected experiences for to be out of touch with our Creator God brings the personality to the point of breakdown and leaves us at the mercy of foes, human and spiritual.

Psalms 13:3-4 [NIV] *“Look on me and answer, O LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death; my enemy will say, ‘I have overcome him,’ and my foes will rejoice when I fall.”*

Despairing need gives way to prayer in which each necessity in turn is laid before God.

Even when God appears to have forsaken him, David’s faith in God holds firm.

Believing intercessory prayer is the antidote to overwhelming grief and defeat.

The depth of David’s faith is revealed in his continuing grasp of the personal relationship with God expressed in the words *“my God.”*

David reveals the nature of his confessed inner pain and grief in the fear that he should die uncomforted by any sense of God intervening to solve the situation that was bringing him so much pain.

Psalms 13:5-6 [NIV] *“But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, for he has been good to me.”*

David reminds himself, still in an attitude of humble prayer to God, the character of the God Whom he worships.

A God who is faithful to His promises [**Titus 1:2**], Who is love itself [**1 John 4:8, 16**] and Who offers forgiveness and salvation from the deserved penalty of death.

Irrepressible hope for the future is always clarified and crystallised by prayer and a personal knowledge of the character of the Creator God to Whom we are praying, [1 Corinthians 15:19; Hebrews 6:17-20].

God's Word, the Christian Bible, begins with human failure when we rebelled against our Creator, but ends in great hope for a wonderful future all because of the love that the Creator God has for all humanity.

We should join David in offering heartfelt praise and thanks to our God.