
WHEN DARKNESS SEEMS FOREVER

Psalm 13

Missio Dei Fellowship

Preached October 18, 2026

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Dark times test every believer

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I. Introduction

Universal Reality

Dark times come to all people — Christians are never exempt.

Silence from God

Believers cry out and sometimes receive only silence. Faith is tested to the breaking point.

Invitation into David's Soul

This short psalm lets us overhear a man after God's own heart pour out his troubled thoughts.

From Despair to Hope

In just six verses David moves from “How long?” to “I will sing.”

II. David's Despair (vv. 1–2)

*“How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?
How long will You hide Your face from me?
How long shall I take counsel in my soul,
Having sorrow in my heart all the day?”
How long will my enemy be exalted over me?*

Key Insights

- ▶ David feels forgotten — yet God is still near and watching.
- ▶ He takes counsel in his own soul and finds only anxiety — no light or clarity.
- ▶ It is not uncommon for God to press a person even deeper into a trial.

What We Should Admire & Learn

He still prays

Though he feels God has put him out of mind, David pursues God.

He fights for joy

A wise person fights for the joy found in God alone. A mature believer does not throw in the towel.

Trials reveal us

Do we curse God? Run from Him?
Or do we call out and let our fears be known to Him?

Faith exercised

David may be at the end of his rope, but he is not abandoning his faith — he is exercising it.

III. David's Prayer (vv. 3–4)

Three bold imperatives that bring stability

Look / Consider

“Look upon me”

Ask God to turn His face toward you again — the language of Numbers 6 blessing and Daniel 9.

Answer

“Answer me, O Lord”

Make clear, specific requests. Not vague humility, but bold petition (Phil 4:6).

Enlighten

“Give light to my eyes”

Restore the sparkle of grace. Eyes that once showed only sorrow can shine again with life and hope.

Fight for God's Presence

The believer cannot function well when God withholds His presence. Therefore we must fight for it.

01 Prayer

Cry out to God — not just walk away into the dry desert of the world.

02 Confession

Preach truth to yourself. Stop listening to justifications that pull you further from blessing.

03 Repentance

Turn. All suffering is still due to sin in general, even if not to specific sin.

04 Waiting

We are too impatient. Ask once and then run to the false gods of our age.

IV. David's Hope (vv. 5–6)

*“But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness;
My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord, because He has dealt bountifully with me.”*

Trust in *Hesed*

He holds onto the covenant promises found in God's steadfast love — not his own.

Situation Unchanged

The troubles remain, but the attitude is utterly different. Alone & fearful
→ triumphant.

Past Tense Faith

“He has dealt bountifully...” — finished in his mind.
God has already done the good work.

The Turning Point

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”

— James 4:8

- ▶ Any hardship comes only through the hand and will of God.
- ▶ David knows he is in right covenant relationship — therefore, why fear?
- ▶ It is all working for good (Romans 8).
- ▶ Christ has already purchased our full salvation. We merely wait and press on.

V. Conclusion — Remember the Gospel

Our Sin Bearer

Jesus, who knew no sin, became sin on our behalf.

Our Wrath Remover

He drank fully the cup of wrath that was reserved for us.

The Innocent One

Beaten and despised, yet utterly innocent — He cried out for our forgiveness.

The Risen Lord

In His resurrection every promise is sealed. We wait for the full working out.

When the Path Feels Dark

Any path you are walking is one your Savior first walked.

*“While Satan rages and roars about him,
he meanwhile sings quietly this little Psalm.”*

— Martin Luther

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