

I Want To Believe...But  
I Don't Feel Him  
April 22, 2018

Even if you do not always feel God's presence, you are not alone.

**Psalm 88:1-18** O Lord, God of my salvation, I cry out to you by day. I come to you at night. Now hear my prayer; listen to my cry. For my life is full of troubles, and death draws near. My eyes are blinded by my tears. Each day I beg for your help, O Lord; I lift my hands to you for mercy...Are your wonderful deeds of any use to the dead? Do the dead rise up and praise you? Can those in the grave declare your unfailing love? Can they proclaim your faithfulness in the place of destruction? Can the darkness speak of your wonderful deeds? Can anyone in the land of forgetfulness talk about your righteousness? O Lord, I cry out to you. I will keep on pleading day by day. O Lord, why do you reject me? Why do you turn your face from me?...You have taken away my companions and loved ones. Darkness is my closest friend.

Why don't we always feel God?

1. Maybe you are over sensationalizing it.

**John 6:30-31** They answered, "Show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What can you do? After all, our ancestors ate manna while they journeyed through the wilderness! The Scriptures say, 'Moses gave them bread from heaven to eat.'

2. Maybe your heart is hardened.

**Matthew 13:14-15** This fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah that says, 'When you hear what I say, you will not understand. When you see what I do, you will not comprehend. For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes—so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.'

**Psalm 51:7-12** Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Oh, give me back my joy again; you have broken me—now let me rejoice. Don't keep looking at my sins. Remove the stain of my guilt. Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you.

**1 John 1:9** But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

3. Maybe God wants to draw you closer.

**Acts 17:24-27** The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by human hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything. Rather, he himself gives everyone life and breath and everything else. From one man he made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands. **God did this so that they would seek him** and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us.

**Jeremiah 29:13** You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the Lord...

What do you do when it feels like God has abandoned you:

- ✓ Let go of fears and misperceptions.

**Psalm 34:4** I sought the LORD, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears.

**Hebrews 12:1-2** Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with

perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God

- ✓ Declare the truth of God's word.

**1 Peter 5:10** And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

- ✓ Stay close to Jesus.

**Psalm 23:1-3** The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.

**Matthew 11:28-30** Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light

**Walk Away:** Today, I choose to pursue Jesus.