

The Potter's Christian Life Center

SERMON NOTES
with Pastor Greg Formey



The In-Between Times

Psalm 13:1-2

Sunday, January 18, 2026

How long, O Lord Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? 2 How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? Psalm 13:1-2 ESV

All of us know the in-between times. You are no longer where you were, but you are not yet where you hoped to be. You pray, but the heavens feel quiet. You read Scripture, but the words feel flat. You begin to wonder, "Where is God?!"

The Bible does not hide this experience. It names it. It calls it the hiding of God's face. Sooner or later, every Christian walks through seasons when God seems to step back from the sense of His presence. But, even then, He continues to guide your life with a steady hand.

HIDING, BUT AT WORK

This is the honest language of the worshiper:

Psalm 10:1 ESV - Why, O Lord, do you stand far off? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble.

In ancient Israel, pilgrims went up to Jerusalem for the feasts three times a year. Between those joyful gatherings were long stretches of ordinary days, droughts, threats from enemies; not to mention personal pain. In those in-between times, Israel learned to sing both praise and songs of lamentation, both "The Lord is my shepherd" and "Why do you hide your face"

The hiding of God's face describes what a believer feels, not what is finally true. God may hide His face from you, but He does not leave you to fend for yourself.

When you feel as if God has stepped away, do you allow that feeling to drive you from Him, or to drive you to Him?

A FEELING, NOT A FINAL REALITY

Psalm 13:1 - How long, O Lord Will you forget me forever How long will you hide your face from me. ESV

This Psalm is about a believer who feels forgotten and abandoned. David cries because he sometimes cannot sense God near him. Thankfully he prays honestly instead of walking away. The question, "How long" shows that waiting by faith is part of real relationship with God.

David says, "How long, O Lord Will you forget me forever" Psalm 13:1 ESV. The verb "forget" In Hebrew, clue us in on his emotions. He feels that God keeps on forgetting.

In verses 5 and 6, however, he says,

5 But I trust in your unfailing love. I will rejoice because you have rescued me. 6 I will sing to the Lord because he is good to me. NLT

The hiding of God's face is an expression of emotion, not a report of reality.

Pagans in ancient times feared that when clouds covered the sky, the sun god had turned away from them. Israel, though, understood that the true God was like the sun hidden by clouds. The light and warmth were still there, even when the face of the sun could not be seen.

So the New Testament declares, **"I am with you always, to the end of the age."** Matthew 28:20 ESV. Paul says with greatest confidence that nothing **"in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."** Romans 8:39 ESV.

In your own in-between time, which voice are you believing more strongly? The voice of your feelings or the voice of God's promises.

Conclusion

Sooner or later, every one of us walks through the in-between times - the hiding of God's face. It is a real feeling, but not the final truth. God can feel hidden and still be your Savior. He can seem silent and still be guiding every step.

Bring your honest questions to Him. In time, you will be able to say with him, "I will sing to the Lord because he is good to me." NLT