

Psalm 13

Big Idea: Silence is often the place where faith grows the deepest.

"Where is God?"

Let's be honest. Knowing God is present doesn't always make us *feel* like He is. No matter how many times you hear some kind of message on the subject, life still happens, and everything can change in an instant leaving us wondering if faith in a God who makes no sense is worth it.

Unbearable Silence

Have you ever prayed and wondered if your prayers were a waste of time? You read your Bible... Nothing. You pray... Nothing. You wait... Nothing. You keep trusting... Still nothing. Doesn't He want me to know? Silence can sometimes shake our faith more than suffering itself.

David

David's life proves that no matter how close you are to God, life still happens! And life happened hard to David! David's family was as dysfunctional as anyone's. He was promised by God that he would be the next king, yet that would take 2 decades! During that time King Saul would hunt him like an animal. He survived like a wild man in the mountains. He lost everything multiple times. And the real kicker is during much of this time, David experienced God's silence.

1. **Faith is honest enough to ask questions. (vv.1-2).** Sometimes religious, pious people believe that mature faith means never asking difficult questions. The Bible says otherwise. David's complaint wasn't rooted in unbelief, but in the emotional strain of prolonged difficulty. God would rather hear your honest questions than your dishonest prayers.
2. **Faith chooses to pray before walking away. (vv.3-4).** David moves from complaining to praying. He doesn't quit. He doesn't walk away. He keeps talking to God. Complaint (even doubt) is not the opposite of faith. It is actually an expression of faith because the sufferer continues bringing his pain to God rather than walk away from Him. Don't become spiritually quiet just because God seems quiet.
3. **Faith remembers what feelings forget. (vv.5-6).** This is one of the greatest transitions in Scripture. Nothing has changed. The circumstances didn't improve. God hasn't answered yet. So, what changed? David remembered. David's confidence rested in God's covenant love rather than in immediate deliverance. That's where faith lives. Faith chooses to interpret reality through the character of God.

Change in Perspective

Note that the chapter never tells us when God answered. The Psalm ends before the circumstances change. Why? Because the greatest miracle in Psalm 13 isn't that David's problems disappeared. It's that his perspective changed.

Family Night – Read Psalm 13:1-6

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "Have you ever felt forgotten? How does that make you feel? Does God ever forget about us? What did David want from God (v.3)? What did David trust (v.5)? How has God been good to you?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "How did David feel? What do you most want/ need from God? How do you know that God has not forgotten you? What should we do when God doesn't answer our prayer?"

Prayer: "Father, help us trust You even when we don't get what we want right away. Help us wait. We trust You. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: This Wednesday, August 5 at 6:30.

Gravity: Gravity will resume this fall.

Today's Songs

Battle Belongs.....Phil Wickham

Goodness of God.....Bethel

Even So Come.....Passion

Hold On

New Series Part 2 today. We have good reason to "hold on" even when it appears God is absent from our circumstances.

Splash in the Boro for GCC is TONIGHT

Cost is \$15 per person or \$45 per family. You pay at the gate as you enter. Snack Shack will be open. Look at your notifications if we must cancel due to weather.

Baptism Service

August 16. Use the Communication Card if you have questions or would like to participate.

GCC 101

Kids going to pre-school this fall move from The Beginner Class to KidsJAM. See parent letter at Beginner Desk.