

Psalms Chapter 13 Commentary
To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David.

Ps 13:1 "How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? forever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me? 2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me? 3 Consider and hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death; 4 Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; and those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved. 5 But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation. 6 I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me."

In this Psalm, King David gives us a reminder of how to deal with things in our own lives. What do you mean? Listen to his pleadings to God: **"How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? forever?"** If we do not feel the presence of God in our lives: whose fault is it? The answer is that it is always our fault because we have allowed some sin, or idol, to come between us and God. How do we know this? God tells us in **Heb 13:5 "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."** Since, we have the promise of God that He will not leave us or forsake us: the fault is always our own.

David asks God: **"how long wilt thou hide thy face from me?"** David says: **"I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily,"** and when I look in my heart, I see the depravity of sin, which has caused a cloud to come between us and hides you from my sight. We can pray the same things, and when we reach the depth of our depravity: we understand, that it is our sins that bring a cloud between us and our sight of Christ.

"How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily?" David is saying to us: I have tried to work this out in myself and that has not worked at all. Therefore, I continue daily with sorrow in my heart because I do not see the face of my God. I do not feel the essence of Your presence, and without that essence of Your presence, I will continue in this sad state of despair. David is praying that God's presence will hasten to return to him and lift him out of this awful pit of despair and desolation.

We also pray this, when we search our hearts and minds, and we do not see the precious promises of God with clarity. **Heb 10:16 "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; 17 And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."** When we cannot see with clarity the Word of God in us, we are undone.

"how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me?" David says to God: how long shall my enemies rejoice while they see my countenance is fallen? David is telling God: as long as I am in this state of despair, Your name is not being glorified and lifted up. David is asking God to return quickly to him, that he may with joy once more lift up and exalt the name of God, knowing that this will blot out the gloating of his enemies.

"Consider and hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death;" David says to God: Lord, please forgive my sins, and remove this cloud that hides you from my sight. if you do not hear and answer me, I shall surely die. This thought carries with it the intimation: if I die, who shall praise and extol thy name upon the earth? Who shall teach thy people thy ways? Who shall teach thy people how to bless and adore thy name?

David is saying to God: return to me the joy of thy salvation. Let thy promises to me be once more as in **Ps 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."** Let the promises of your word be the strength of my heart and mind, that I may withstand the onslaught of enemies that are bearing down upon me.

"Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; and those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved." David says to God: If you do not cause the light of your grace and mercy to shine upon me, my enemies shall rejoice and claim that they have overcome God. They will slay me and cast me aside as one that is nothing.

David recalls to mind: **"But I have trusted in thy mercy;"** Lord, I have trusted in thy word of promise unto me. I shall not let go of your promises to me, for they are my hope and my rejoicing. David is saying to us: even when the way is dark, and there seems to be no light in our pathway, we must call to remembrance the Word of God, and remember the promises, and the longsuffering mercies, of God to His people.

God will never tempt anyone to commit sin. God will, however, test us with the trials of life that we may know the strength of our faith, and the soundness of our belief in the word of God. Every obstacle that we face in life, is put there to exercise our faith and trust in God. What does exercise do for the body? It builds up its

strength. As we exercise to keep our bodies healthy, God exercises our faith in Him, and His Word, to cause us to grow stronger, which makes us more useful in our discipleship to Christ.

God is totally right in admonishing us when we fail to uphold and exalt his name on the earth. However, the promises of God are sure, and everlasting, and shall not fail. This is often all we have to hold onto. We look back in life and see the delivering hand of God manifested in our lives, and this strengthens our resolve, to continue to trust in the promises of God. Even today, amid our trials in life, and in the face of our enemies.

"my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation." David says: I consider all the past mercies, and deliverances, you have demonstrated in my life, my heart rejoices in thy salvation. David recalls to mind: even if his enemies fall upon him and slay his body; he shall be resurrected from the dead and be with God forever. Thus, with this belief: David continues to say: I will trust in the work of thy hands, and the promise of eternal life.

"I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me." Therefore, amid the storms of life: I will sing and extol the name of my God. David is saying to us, what Paul and Silas demonstrated in **Ac 16:25-26; 25 "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. 26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed."** Paul and Silas believed in the delivering power of God, just as King David did. They prayed and sang to God, and God loosed them from bondage, if we fully trust fully in God: if we pray and sing praises to our God; God will also deliver us out of our bondages. This is why, when we pray and sing to God in worship, in Spirit and Truth, our hearts and minds are purged of the cares of this world, and we are lifted to the higher realms to look upon heavenly things.

Wherefore, in the times of trial in our lives, when our spiritual skies are overcast, we can say with King David: I will praise my Saviour. I will seek for and embrace Christ in me. I will exercise the right of sonship, and call upon my heavenly Father, knowing that He will supply me with every need. May we never lose sight of the precious privilege, of the gift of being able to say: **"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name."** Hallelujah! Praise, ye the Lord!