



“Abandoned by God”

Psalm 13

Have you ever felt abandoned by God? Feeling abandoned by God is more common than most people want to admit. The reason we're not quick to admit it is because we're afraid most of our friends would shake their heads and wonder if we're a Christian. David is a giant in Scripture, a person “after God's own heart” (1 Sam13:14), yet we find David talking about feeling abandoned by God. Faith is not the absence of questions, doubts and fear but bringing your questions, doubts and fears to God. Struggling with God over the issues of life doesn't show a lack of faith – that is faith.

When You're Feeling Abandoned by God...

Tell Him What You're Feeling. vv1-2; Ps145:18

David gives us four reasons for his feelings:

- Prolonged Suffering. “How long” 4xs; v1a
- Absence of God's manifested presence. v1b; Ps42:1
- Dark thoughts and emotions. v2a; Pro4:23; 2Cor10:5; Phil4:7
- My enemies are getting the best of me. v2b; 1Pet5:8

Ask Him for What You're Needing. vv3-4; Psalm 8:3-4

- I need to hear from you. v3a; Matt4:4
- I need my spiritual eyes opened. vv3b-4a; Eph1:17-19; 2Kings 6:15-17
- I need to be unshakable. v4b; Ps16:8, 55:22

Trust Him to Fulfill His Promises. vv5-6; Ex6:9

What does God promise His people?

- Steadfast love v5a; Gen15; Ps136
- Salvation v5b; Matt1:21; Rom8:31-32
- Singing v6; Ps103:1-2, 116:7; 2Cor9:8

Jesus was abandoned for you on the Cross, so that you never will be. Psalm22:1; 2Cor5:21; Heb13:5-6

Growing Notes

- 1) Have you ever felt abandoned by God? Explain. Why is it so hard to admit feelings of abandonment by God? Struggling with God over the issues of life doesn't show a lack of faith – that is faith. Explain.
- 2) Read Psalm 13. What stands out to you from this text? This Psalm has three parts each consisting of two verses. What's the big idea of vv1-2 compared to vv3-4 and vv5-6? How does the tone progressively change through this Psalm?
- 3) Why is it important to tell God what you are feeling as opposed to suppressing (Traditional) or expressing (Modern) your emotions? What four reasons does David give for his feelings (Ps145:18)? Which one(s) do you struggle with the most?
- 4) What do you do after you have told God what you are feeling? Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance but laying hold of His willingness (Psalm 8:3-4). Explain. What's the difference between a circumstance enhancement vs. a character enhancement prayer? Which one is David's prayer (vv3-4)? What three things is David asking for?
- 5) Why should all processing of our emotions end with trusting God to fulfill His promises? What happens if we fail to process the difficulties of life (Ex6:9)? What three things does God promise His people? What guarantee do we have that God will never abandon us (Rom8:31-32)? What is God speaking to you from this teaching? Pray.