

# The Art of Endurance

## Psalm 13

### I. God Is Not in a Hurry

- A. Sometimes God seems to take too long to answer prayer and solve problems. To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David. How long wilt thou forget me, O LORD? for ever? how long wilt thou hide thy face from me? (Psalm 13:1)
  - 1. Loneliness, isolation, and weakness can come into life to call people back to dependence on God. Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us? (Deuteronomy 31:17)
  - 2. Sin muffles the sound of prayer. But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. (Isaiah 59:2)
  - 3. Unmitigated distress compounds itself. A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken. (Proverbs 15:13)
- B. Uncertainty generates stress which compounds problems. How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily? how long shall mine enemy be exalted over me? (Psalm 13:2)
- C. God knows the problem believers face because Jesus understood and experienced the distress of isolation from God's comfort. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. (Matthew 26:38)

### III. People Are in a Hurry

- A. Until God enables people to see reality in the perspective of Providence, death seems the only way out of troubles. Consider and hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death; (Psalm 13:3)
  - 1. In God's light all the other lights of life take on meaning. For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light. (Psalms 36:9)
  - 2. Jesus is the light God gives. A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. (Luke 2:32)
  - 3. Jesus is the ultimate light people seek at the end of life. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. (Revelation 21:23)
- B. While the believer remains self-focused problems overwhelm. Lest mine enemy say, I have prevailed against him; and those that trouble me rejoice when I am moved. (Psalm 13:4)
- C. Shift the focus to God. Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved. (Psalm 55:22)
- D. The inadequacy of other resources doesn't really matter because the resource which prevails is God. He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved. (Psalm 62:6)

### III. Trust in God Generates Endurance

- A. Trust returns life's focus to God's sovereign grace. But I have trusted in thy mercy; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation. (Psalm 13:5)
- B. Remember how God's mercy appears in Jesus. Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. (Jude 21)
- C. Rejoicing in the Lord turns into joy. Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. (Habakkuk 3:18)
- D. Through trust, sorrow transforms into song. I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me. (Psalm 13:6)
  - 1. It is the Lord's strength, not ours, which causes believers to rejoice. Be thou exalted, LORD, in thine own strength: so will we sing and praise thy power. (Psalm 21:13)
  - 2. In the times of trouble that people remember the times of grace. Return unto thy rest, O my soul; for the LORD hath dealt bountifully with thee. (Psalm 116:7)
- E. God's grace in times of trouble reveals God's fundamental righteousness. I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments. (Psalm 119:7)

