

Trust Deeply

Psalm 13

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Suffering refines what we trust in. Pain has a way of clarifying our deepest trust. It also reveals the idols we have in our hearts. Trusting in God is the final destination we need to arrive at in our lamenting. We need to anchor our laments in deep trust in God. This is how we bring lament to its proper conclusion.

3 steps in the lamenting process from Psalm 13:

1) Complaining (vv1-2)

The pain and suffering David experienced had caused him to lose confidence and courage. Yet, he knew that God was compassionate and His love towards him was steadfast. He brought his raw emotions before God. It is better to lament in prayer than to bury our complaints deep in our souls. Silence towards God in our pain will only kill our souls.

David's feeling of abandonment was not related to any sin he had committed. The silence and hiddenness of God completely baffled and left him with a huge ache in his heart. Similarly, Job experienced the absence of his friendship and intimacy with God (Job 29:2-5).

David also felt restless with himself and experienced external threats (v2). He was complaining to God and bringing the hurt, lostness and the care he yearned from God before Him.

2) Asking (vv3-4)

Despite feeling abandoned and forgotten by God, David still cried out to God. Deep down, He knew that God was still there. This is the beauty of the lamenting characters in the Bible: though their hearts were heavy with complaint, they always returned to God in asking.

v3 – David's emotional anguish was visibly noticeable. He was asking for God to restore in him a spiritual sparkle and a renewed

spirit in his eyes and soul. David was fighting and wrestling against the enemy; he did so with bold and courageous asking. He knew that the only way he could find spiritual restoration was in God. Despite the turmoil in his soul and the presence of his enemies, David asked boldly.

3) Trusting (vv5-6)

This is the turning point in David's lament. Amidst feeling forgotten by God, being restless in his soul and threatened by the enemy, he declares his trust in God's steadfast love (v5). When God's presence feels like a fast fading memory and His love seems to evaporate under the hot sun, declare to the heavens: 'I trust in Your steadfast love!'. God's love will never fail us! God's steadfast love is also His covenantal love. God has committed Himself in covenant to His people like a husband has to his bride. David celebrated his deliverance even though it had not yet happened. It was there that David was lifted spiritually. He began the Psalm with complaining, wrestled through the raw and real emotions he experienced and ended it with singing and rejoicing (v6). God granted David more than he had desired.

The Bible doesn't just leave us with commands and directives to trust God but also stories. Joseph knew that while God felt hidden, He was not absent. He continued to trust in God's *chesed* (Hebrew for steadfast/covenantal) love and did not turn away from Him. God is just as watchful in His hiddenness as He is in His revelation.

Jesus Christ, though having prayed many times to be delivered from the cup of wrath He was to drink, yielded to the will of the Father and died on the cross for our sins. Even though we cannot know all the reasons for our cross, we can look at the Cross and know that God is working even though He appears hidden. Trust in God! If even the

saints in heaven are told to wait upon God to act, how much more we (Rev 6:9-11).