

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Your Grace Still Amazes Me, Amazing Grace, Living Hope

WELCOME

What is the most stressful “waiting experience” you’ve had this week?

WORD

PSALM 13

How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?² How long shall I take counsel in my soul, Having sorrow in my heart all the day? How long will my enemy be exalted over me?³ Consider and answer me, O Lord my God; Enlighten my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,⁴ And my enemy will say, “I have overcome him,” And my adversaries will rejoice when I am shaken.⁵ But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.⁶ I will sing to the Lord, Because He has dealt bountifully with me.

Have you ever experienced unanswered prayer? Do you like to wait? Is it an enjoyable thing to do? We all struggle with waiting and we struggle with unanswered prayers too – as if God has not heard our cries or our petitions. WHEN GOD SEEMS SILENT... What do you do?

We are impatient creatures. Whether young or old, this attitude on waiting is still a challenge for most of us. The same thing goes with our spiritual life. There are times when you get disappointed with God. You are praying for something, and it seems God is not paying attention—to the point that you think God has forsaken you.

When God seems silent, we should wait on Him. But how do we really wait on Him? What does this entail? As we look into this short passage from **Psalm 13**, we will learn three things that David actually did to address his concern:

1. POUR OUT YOUR HEART

David says four times in two verses, “HOW LONG, O LORD...” thinking God has forgotten him! It tells us you can be honest with God. We can pour out our hearts to God and even express our frustrations and complaints, but we are not to stay that way. This psalm is a proof that it is possible to “recalibrate” and not succumb to the floods of emotions which bring irrational thoughts and depressing ideas.

While the exact context of this psalm is not known, we can assume that David has been waiting for something. Maybe David was complaining about what’s happening in his life. Just consider what was David’s life like:

A quick survey of **1 Samuel 16-18 (and onwards)** will show us the beginnings of David’s life: from a shepherd boy, anointed to be Israel’s future king, to a trusted worker, a national champion, and a famous warrior. David rose from the ranks with God on his side every step of the way. But even with such deep and dedicated relationship with his Heavenly Father, David was brought into

various disappointments and challenges. He became a fugitive, waited many years, and went through many chases and wars before he eventually got the kingship.

As David learned how to WAIT, he pours out his heart unto God and expresses his concerns like in the psalm we are studying today. **Psalm 27:13-14** is a reminder for us that to wait is a command. If you don’t learn to wait, you become disappointed, disillusioned, and discouraged. You will succumb to doubt, despair, and depression; but David was able to avoid succumbing to all of these because he learned to wait on the LORD. It is important to learn to wait because it is part and parcel of **GROWING**. **Psalm 25:3** gives us a promise, that we will not be disappointed if we wait on the LORD.

2. PROCESS WITH HIM

In **vv. 3-4 of Psalm 13**, David chose to process the whole situation with God rather than to just run away from Him and give up. He asked God for enlightenment. **James 1:2-5** reminds us that God is developing our faith when we go through trials and problems. God is more concerned about our character rather than just our physical comfort. The truth is, we don’t always know WHY these hardships are present in our lives. But GOD WANTS US NOT TO RUN AWAY, but to **DRAW CLOSER TO HIM FOR WISDOM**.

Take a caterpillar’s metamorphosis to becoming a butterfly. Once it forms a cocoon, it takes 10-14 days for it to come out with wings. The process inside requires struggle—from transforming everything to liquid form, a butterfly’s new form is made stronger by the sheer requirement of having to struggle coming out of the cocoon. Oftentimes we like shortcuts but if we learn to see WHY the need for the process, we are able to WAIT BETTER. **When you learn to wait, God begins to develop your faith and your character**. David did not take things into his own hands. Although he had multiple chances to kill Saul,

WORD (cont'd)

David held on to the fact that he must respect the Lord's anointed (**1 Samuel 26:9-12**).

Men of God in Scripture have shown us that waiting can be a long game, but it is definitely worth it. Abraham waited for 25 years, Moses waited for 40 years, Joseph and David both waited for 15 years, and even the Apostle Paul in the New Testament waited for 14 years before planting his own church! So when your career is not moving or your requests haven't been answered, wait on the LORD and completely trust in Him. He is at work behind the scenes. Process your issues and questions with GOD and learn to wait patiently for His answers and revelations.

3. PRAISE HIM IN ADVANCE

Psalm 13:5-6 shows us that David ended this short psalm by choosing to trust in the Lord's lovingkindness and rejoice in His salvation even before his problems were resolved and he was probably still hiding or running away. Notice how he used the past tense – a clear declaration of faith that God will do as He has promised and with much certainty.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Self-Check.** Why do you think it is important to learn to wait? What were some of the instances that you were not able to wait for something and how did it go for you? Share this to the group.
- 2. Setting It Right.** As you process with the Lord, what were the things He has pointed to you that you need to work on or do better in?
- 3. Living It Out.** There is always a reason to praise Him. In what way do you commit to "praising Him in advance" this week?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray that God will work in our hearts and the hearts of the people we pray for. Show care by taking the time to listen to people who would like to unload their feelings. Share about how God brought the much-awaited salvation to all men through the Lord Jesus Christ.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants and a God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends

Jeremiah had a similar problem. Jeremiah served 5 kings. On human perspective, he could have been considered a failure. Why? People did not listen to him. But in God's eyes he was very successful. He cried for the people. He saw what was happening and he warned them, but they did not listen. Similar to David, Jeremiah wrote in **Lamentations 3:19-26** of the same frustrations and still acknowledged the Lord, and began judging his circumstances and challenges in contrast to who God is.

In God's school of waiting, He uses the waiting period to mold our characters and to transform our hearts. Usually, we wait on GOD because we want something from GOD. But **HE IS THE GREATEST BLESSING**. In this time of waiting, David learned that the greatest blessing is GOD. That's why he had said **ONE THING I ASK; I WANT GOD'S PRESENCE (Psalm 27:4)**.

Jeremiah also wrote about what to do as we wait and worship God. **Jeremiah 29:5-14** is a sobering lesson for all of us: to wait on the Lord doesn't mean we are not going to do something. We must keep on blessing others and trusting that the Lord is able and will deliver His promises to all of us who believe and hold on to the Word of God.