

WILL GOD STILL LOVE ME EVEN IF... Q

I'M LONELY

PRECEPT

PSALM 13:1-6

¹ How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? ² How long will I store up anxious concerns within me, agony in my mind every day? How long will my enemy dominate me? ³ Consider me and answer, Lord my God. Restore brightness to my eyes; otherwise, I will sleep in death. ⁴ My enemy will say, "I have triumphed over him," and my foes will rejoice because I am shaken. ⁵ But I have trusted in your faithful love; my heart will rejoice in your deliverance. ⁶ I will sing to the Lord because he has treated me generously.

PSALM 25:16

¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.

PROMISE

Loneliness is experienced by anyone, anytime, anywhere. Regardless of our social and relationship status, whatever season of life we're at, we will experience this one way or another. Jesus promises us that He meets us in our loneliness. In Genesis 2:18 the Lord says, "*It is not good for man to be alone.*" The Lord Himself is not alone; The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are in a harmonious relationship with each other. As we are created in the image of God (Imago Deo), He designed us for healthy relationships; loneliness was not part of His plan for us.

The six verses of Psalm 13 take us from a place of isolation, fear, aloneness, and sorrow and moves us to a reminder, a declaration, and an internal determination to trust in God to be victorious. David expressed fears that God was forgetting him and hiding from him. We would do well to write out our fears, expressing them to the best of our ability, and to end the writings with truths from God's Word, just as David did. It would also be helpful to identify and address any toxic relationship we might have. Be part of a life group and a church family where we are surrounded with people who can provide us good and godly counsel. More importantly, we are to connect to God all the time.

CRY OUT TO GOD. When we are in a season of loneliness, we must run to Him all the more rather than running away from Him. Cry out in the arms of our heavenly Father and surely, He will comfort us and guide us through. Sometimes, the waiting can be lonely; waiting for His answer, a solution to our problem, a breakthrough in our relationships. God assures us that He has never forgotten about us. Isaiah 49:15 says, "*Can a mother forget the baby at her breast, and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!*"

CALL OUT TO GOD. There are times that God seems silent and distant when we cry out to Him, but we must keep calling out to Him. Sometimes, He uses unfair situations for us to learn to trust Him more. Psalms 13 shows us how David expressed his trust and confidence in Christ despite the intense emotions he's having. His focus shifted from himself, to others, to God's faithful love and generosity (verse 5).

CONNECT WITH GOD ALWAYS. Our sadness will soon turn into joy, loneliness to worship, and confusion to adoration. Jesus tells us in John 16:33, "*In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.*" Loneliness is part of the human experience, but to overcome this emotion we must have Jesus in our lives and stay connected with Him. Jesus reminds us in John 14:27, "*Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. Don't let your heart be troubled.*"

PRACTICE

1. Loneliness. How would you define loneliness? What is it like to experience loneliness for you?

2. Our Response. How can we, as a church, respond to the lonely and share the peace that Christ offers to the world?

PRAYER

I. Gospel

- May we always study the Word by heart and share it to others in every shape and form.

II. Unity

- Pray that we will be unified in our mission & vision for the church and in the truth of God's Word.

III. Missionaries

- Pray for protection, support, and wisdom as they go to the world and preach the Gospel.

IV. Discipleship

- Pray that we will all disciple our families and loved ones to honour God and be more Christlike.

V. World

- May God order the course of this world in peace. Pray for blessing and healing for the world.

VI. Lonely

- Pray for comfort and the warmth of relationships into the life of those who are lonely.

VII. Hope

- "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." - Romans 15:13