**Hope in Despair – Ps. 13**

**Focal Truth: When in despair live in God’s love for you**

**Ps. 13 - is a prayer of despair! A prayer of confusion, of bewilderment & trust in God’s love!**

The psalms are a source of help to believers in their despair!

**Observations**

1. **Despair doubts God’s love – 1 -2**

*How long O Lord?*

1. Despair doubts God’s love in times of despair

*How long? Will you forget me forever? =* ***God has forgotten me!***

*How long will you hide Your face from me? =* ***God has abandoned me!***

*How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart all the day? =* ***God has rejected me!***

*How long will my enemy be exalted over me? =* ***God has not protected me!***

1. Despair denies God’s love in times of despair

Why is it hard for people to accept the love of God in times of trouble?

* Most people think if God loves them, they will never have any troubles
* Most people think if God is love there won’t be any trouble in the world
* Most people have never known real love – so can’t comprehend God’s love
* Most people have only known conditional love not unconditional love

1. Despair disbelieves God’s love in times of despair

* Generations have heard of God’s love but have rejected it
* Most people don’t believe that Jesus Christ loves them & died for them in their sinfulness because of their shame in sinfulness

1. Despair blames God for its pain!

* *Despair* ***blames*** *God for the pain of discouragement*
* *Despair* ***accuses*** *God of abandonment & unconcern*
* *Despair* ***expects*** *that God is unloving & unconcerned*

1. Despair restlessly questions God’s love in its pain!
2. **Despair desires God’s love – 3 - 4**

*Consider and answer me, O Lord my God, enlighten my eyes or I will sleep the sleep of death*

1. Despair longingly cries to **God in pain** – ***O Lord my God***

God’s love is the greatest need in life!

1. Despair desperately seeks **God’s attention** - **Consider me**
2. Despair anxiously requests **God to respond to the pains of despair** - **Answer me**
3. Despair urgently longs for **God to deliver from the enemy** - **Answer me**
4. Despair faintingly prays for **God to give life** - **Enlighten me** = light up my eyes1

Ps. 18 – *for you light my lamp, the Lord my God illumines my darkness*

Ps. 27:1 – *the Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear?*

**Consider**

1. God gives spiritual light in the darkness of despair to know te blessings of being born again

*I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know….*

* Hope of His calling
* Riches of heavenly inheritance
* Surpassing greatness of God’s power to help us

1. Jesus Christ is the life & Light for all - *in Him was life, & the life was light of men*
2. **Hope rejoices in God’s love – 5 -6**

*But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because He has dealt bountifully with me*

**Living in the love of God is trusting in His love every circumstance & condition!**

1. *Hope in despair* ***waits*** *for God’s answer & help because of His lovingkindness*

*I have trusted in Your lovingkindness*

**Lovingkindenss = God’s loving kindness – His unconditional mercy & grace**

1. Hope in despair **trusts** in God’s lovingkindness

*I have trusted in Your loivngkindness*

1. Hope in despair **rejoices** in God’s lovingkindness & salvation

*My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation*

Rm. 8:35 – *who shall separate us from the love of Christ?*

1. Hope in despair sings praises the God who lovingly blesses

*I will sing to the Lord*, *For He has dealt bountifully with me*

**Despair takes your song away – but trust in God’s love restores it!**

**Consider**

1. Hear the great promises of God’s love today in your despair!

Ps. 6:4 – *return to me O Lord, save me because of your lovingkindness*

Ps. 32:10 – *He who trusts in the Lord, lovingkindness shall surround him*

Ps. 40:11 – *you will not withhold compassion from me; Your lovingkindness & truth will continually preserve me*

Ps. 42:10 – *the Lord will command his lovingkindness in the day*

Ps. 59:17 – *O my strength, I will sing praises to You; for God is my stronghold, the God who shows me lovingkindness*

Ps. 103:17 -

Ps. 94:18 – *if I should say, my foot has slipped, your lovingkindness, O Lord will hold me up*

1. The believer **experiences** the love of God by the Holy Spirit – Rom. 5:5

* The Holy Spirit **affects the mind and emotions** of believers with the reality of the love of God
* The Holy Spirit **assures the mind and comforts** believers with the reality of the love of God

**By the Holy Spirit believers not only believe but experience the love of God!**

1. Knowing & experiencing the multi-dimensional love of God brings hope in despair

*That you may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth & length& height & depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God – Eph.3:18 -19*

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. Never trust despair about how much God loves you!
2. God’s light – His truth pushes away the darkness of despair
3. Hope in despair believes nothing can separate you from the love of Christ!
4. May the Lord direct your heart into the Love of God – 2 Thess. 3:5

*But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. I will sing to the Lord, because He has dealt bountifully with me. Ps. 13:5 -6*

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**