

Day 1 — Instruction

God Welcomes Honest Faith

Read:

Scripture (BSB): Psalm 13

How Long, O LORD?

For the choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

1 How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever? How long will You hide Your face from me?

2 How long must I wrestle in my soul, with sorrow in my heart each day? How long will my enemy dominate me?

3 Consider me and respond, O LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, lest I sleep in death,

4 lest my enemy say, “I have overcome him,” and my foes rejoice when I fall.

5 But I have trusted in Your loving devotion; my heart will rejoice in Your salvation.

6 I will sing to the LORD, for He has been good to me.

Psalm 13 opens with a question many believers are afraid to ask aloud: “How long, O Lord?”

David does not begin with praise or confidence. He begins with honesty. Scripture preserves this prayer to show us something essential about faith—God invites honesty, not performance.

Silence often tempts us to clean up our prayers. We soften our words, hide our frustration, and try to sound faithful rather than be faithful. Psalm 13 confronts that impulse.

1. God Welcomes Our Real Words

David does not disguise his pain. He brings fear, confusion, and longing into God’s presence. This tells us that honest prayer is not disrespectful—it is relational.

Faith begins where honesty begins.

2. God Is Not Threatened by Our Questions

David asks “How long?” four times. God does not rebuke him. Silence is not a test we must pass—it is an invitation to deeper trust.

Questions do not push God away. Silence invites them.

3. God's Character Frames Our Lament

David's honesty does not end in despair. It is framed by trust in God's steadfast love. Lament stays near God even when answers are missing.

Reflect

- What emotions do you tend to hide from God?
- How does Psalm 13 challenge your view of prayer?

Pray

"God, help me come to You honestly."

Respond

What might change if you allowed honesty to shape your prayers today?

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