

Daily Devotional, August 27, 2020 God Has Been Good to Me

How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy triumph over me? Look on me and answer, LORD my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, and my enemy will say, "I have overcome him," and my foes will rejoice when I fall. But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. I will sing the LORD's praise, for He has been good to me. Psalm 13 (NIV)

Needless to say, these are frustrating times. We are frustrated with the chaotic political scene, the pandemic that is re-writing our history, causing us to be frustrated with each other, and sometimes—even with God. How do we handle these dispiriting feelings? Today's scripture reading provides some concerns that could easily be our own. Perhaps no writers of the Bible were as brutally honest with their raw emotions as were the writers of the Psalms, especially concerning their attitudes toward God. David, the writer of Psalm 13, expresses an honesty that reflects so many of our thoughts in these days of trials, helping us to find expression to our ruminations or maybe even to our prayers.

David covered a number of the situations we face quite well: Have we been abandoned or forgotten? Will our negative thoughts ever stop afflicting us? Will there ever come an end to the many sorrows that encircle us? Will the cheaters and opportunists always remain on top? Will we ever find our way and finally see the light, or will we remain forever condemned to witnessing the triumph of this indiscriminate disease and these dispassionate leaders?

I believe the reason so many of the Psalms are attributed to David (besides the archaeological evidence) is that the innocent shepherd boy, turned reluctant general, turned fearless yet blemished king had, like no other, experienced the full variety of human challenges, yet *never lost his faith*. Did he at times question it? Of course! Numerous times! Did he abandon it? Never! The conclusion of this Psalm of anguish is one of the most optimistic in all of Scripture.

In the end, David was able to say God's love for him was at that moment and had always been, unshakable. His simple shepherd's heart could not restrain the joys he had experienced in God's salvation throughout one seemingly impossible situation after another. His praise could not be suppressed. He had to shout it out! He had been nurtured, guided, forgiven, and loved through agonies that today's 21st Century reader could never imagine. Yet, because of his faith, his sorrows had been replaced by joys. In the end, David could summarize all of his true feelings with honesty and assurance in his final words to this psalm: "God has been good to me."

PRAYER: God, Teach us to walk the walk of David moment by moment, day by day, year after year. When the time at last comes for us to look back and assess these frustrating times, may each of us assuredly say, "Through all the trials that I have been through, God has been good to me."