

How Faith Works

Psalm 13

Main Idea

Faith is the act of looking back at God's past grace and trusting that He will act for future grace in obedience to His word.

Overview

In Darkness, go to the God of Light

- This prayer is in the Bible: Something we believe is breathed out by God (2 Tim. 3.16-17)
 - Be encouraged that the Lord places these kinds of prayers in His Word
 - He not only welcomes our prayers of struggle, but He shows us how to work through them
- Notice that even in David's despair and questioning of the Lord he still goes to him in prayer
- Though he wonders where the Lord is, he still not only understands that the Lord can hear his prayer, but he also understands the Lord is able to shed light on his darkness (v. 3)
- David's prayer is raw and full of questions of the Lord's work in his life:
 - Four times David asks "How long?" in the first two verses
 - How long will you forget me forever?
 - How long will you hide your face from me?
 - How long must I take counsel in my soul?
 - And have sorrow in my heart all the day?
 - How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
 - David asks the Lord to act on his behalf because he is about to die (v. 3)
 - He is also concerned about how his enemies will speak of his defeat (v. 2b, 4)
- In short, David's situation both physically, emotionally, and spiritually is absolutely desperate and though he is wailing, he still sees the Lord in it...how

In Darkness, trust what the Lord will do because of what the Lord has done

(or: Faith is rooted in Gods past grace which then teaches us to trust God for Future Grace)

- David is reminded of who he has been: A man who has trusted in the Lord's Steadfast Love (v. 4):
 - He is not a man that hasn't trusted in the Lord's steadfast love
 - Steadfast Love: The Lord's Covenant Loyal Love:
 - The Lord has been Loyal to His Covenant in Love
 - That is what David has trusted
 - Not himself and not faith for faith's sake, but only the Lord
- Note the future orientation of David's next words: He WILL/Shall rejoice in the Lords salvation
 - He is trusting that he will be saved:
 - This could be heaven or circumstantial
 - Either way, he trusts its going to happen (hope!)
- His heart WILL SING (Future) to the Lord:
 - He doesn't chastise the Lord, but instead, plans on singing to Him...why?
- BECAUSE HE has dealt bountifully with me
 - David's trust in the Lord's future grace is based off of His study of Gods past grace
 - He has studied how the Lord has 'dealt bountifully' with him and that is what causes him to have faith or trust the Lord even when he doesn't feel the presence of the Lord

Questions

Discussion Starter: *How do you think most non-believing people would characterize “faith?” How many believing friends would understand it to be a future oriented act?*

1. Describe David’s situation. How does David feel about the Lord? How does this comfort or challenge you?
2. What does David know about the Lord? Why?
3. Describe the ways the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.
4. Describe the ways the Lord has dealt bountifully with us as a church.
5. Where does the Gospel play into all of this?
6. Why is the discipline of recalling God’s gracious actions toward us so important in the life of Faith?

Accountability Question: *What are some areas you need to trust God to act in obedience for future grace?*