

**DAY 1 PSALM 13:1-6****1**

How long? How Long? How long? David's words remind us of a young child at the beginning of a long trip. That's not to minimize David's suffering (which was very real). It is to remind us that a lack of knowledge can warp our perception of what we see. We do not see the big picture as God does; we never will. We cannot possibly understand why God does things the way He does. So we are left with just one thing...our faith. When you are confused by God's apparent lack of action or His seeming unconcern, remember to take comfort in what we do know. God knows what you are going through and He cares. If we will trust in His unfailing love without wavering, He will not only show us that He cares, but will also show us His strength and greatness.

DAY 2 ROMANS 8:35-38**2**

There is no doubt that life can be painful and confusing. When things get bad, we might be tempted to think that God has put a wall up between us. Does God even know what I'm going through? Will He ever become more involved in my life? Our reading is a testament to the absolute faithfulness of God toward those who trust Him. There is no lacking on God's part. He not only has the compassion to rescue us, He also has the power to do it. The Christian life is a battle. Occasionally we are called upon to face tough challenges and determined enemies. Sometimes it seems as though we are losing that battle. In those times of doubt and fear, take heart; no one is more faithful or more powerful than our God. There is no enemy or situation in life that can separate us from Him.

DAY 3 1 PETER 5:7-11**3**

I remember my 5-year-old son coming out in his pajamas and asking, "Do I have anything to worry about tomorrow?" We replied, "Nothing to worry about Buddy, everything is taken care of for tomorrow." That's what it's like to cast our cares on God. We don't cast our cares on someone we don't trust, nor should we. We cast our anxiety on God because we know He cares for us. This does not mean we can afford to be sloppy and careless with our lives. (After all, the devil loves to see Christians fail.) It means that all of our efforts to live Godly lives should be rooted in our faith. Our Christianity is primarily a relationship with a loving God, not an exercise in our human ability. We should not attempt to carry burdens that God never intended for us to carry.

DAY **ISAIAH 41:10**

4

The prophet Isaiah was comparing Israel with the godless nations of the world. Their gods are idols which can do nothing. They cannot speak, or even stand up on their own. The Lord says to Israel, in effect, “Why should you be afraid of them? I am the living God; they have nothing like me. I will strengthen you. I will help you, and I will hold you up with my right hand. My care of you is not an afterthought, it is purposeful and complete. There is nothing that these pagan nations have that you should envy. No matter how much they try to build each other’s confidence, they are powerless against me.” These words are written not only for Israel, but for us today. In God, we have everything we need to live. There is nothing that the world can add. Don’t let fear rule your life.

DAY **PSALM 136:1-26**

5

In this Psalm, we are reminded over and over that “God’s love endures forever.” Each of the 26 times that phrase is repeated, it reminds us of the completeness of God’s love. The Psalmist credits the Lord for his wonderful works 22 times and he prompts us to give thanks to the Lord 4 times. This shows that we are to constantly keep God’s good works on our mind and to give thanks to Him. The world is full of chaos and inconsistency, but God’s love is sure. This Psalm gives directions for a healthy spiritual life. It is similar to what Paul says in Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.” How will we fill our minds?

Sign up to receive our AppNotes email, Monday-Friday.

parkerhill.org/bible