

Welcome to: - Bible House of Grace.



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Psalm 13.

(2015)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

Psalm 13.

Topics.

- LORD my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death.
- David trusts in God's steadfast love; his heart rejoiced in God's salvation.
- David's great faith manifested.
- Sleeping in Christ.

INTRODUCTION: Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they consist of five books covering the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

Book One (Psalm 1-41)

To the Choirmaster. A Psalm of David.

O LORD my God; light up my Eyes, lest I Sleep the Sleep of death.

Psalm 13:1-4 ----- ¹How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? ²How 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? ³Consider and answer me, O LORD my God; light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death, ⁴lest my enemy say, "I have prevailed over him," lest my foes rejoice because I am shaken.

Not only does David's enemy have greater power than David has at this time, he (or they) are also exalted by the people above David so much so David feels that the enemy may overpower him and either kill him on the battle field or sentence him to death when they have the victory. Whoever this enemy maybe they have enough power and might to cause David to feel they will not only prevail over him, but when they do they will also rejoice in his defeat and death.

This enemy has been causing David anguish for such a long time that he feels God has forgotten him and asks God, "How much longer will his enemy be exalted over him?"

Light up my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death: (v3) means fill me with vitality, strength, energy and wisdom to overcome my enemy so that I am not put to death.

Lest I sleep the sleep of death: shows that David understood that his death was not permanent, he knew he would be resurrected from the grave this is why he refers to his death as sleep. All who die in Christ are referred to as being asleep in Christ for the same reason their death is simply a long sleep until the Angel of the LORD awakens them at the sound of the last trump and they are raised to eternal life and everlasting glory. For further information concerning those sleeping in Christ see the title: "Sleeping in Christ" at the end of this study.

David trusts in God's Steadfast Love; His heart Rejoiced in God's Salvation.

Psalm 13:5-6 ----- ⁵But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. ⁶I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me.

David tells God that his enemy is exalted over him, he fears he maybe killed and that he feels God has forgotten him then declares his trust in God's love and his trust in God's salvation.

This prayer of David's shines a brilliant spotlight on the following four truths: -

1. Just because a person has great faith and is devoted to the LORD does not mean they will never experience despair or even depression in certain circumstances or at different periods of their life.
2. It is not a lack of faith to feel fearful, depressed or in despair it is human.
3. True faith is not afraid to tell God how we honestly feel (i.e., David told God he feels He has forsaken him).
4. Great faith tells God how we honestly feel on the inside even if we think God may not like it and not just what we think God would like to hear.

David spoke to God in all of these ways and God said, "David was a man after His own heart." God is not a doctrine nor is He as set of laws. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob the God of Israel throughout Scripture is given the title: "Father," God's nature is that of a heavenly Father who loves His children and understands that we live in a fallen corrupted body of flesh full of sinful dysfunctions and aberrations.

It should always be remembered God's most beloved Son died on the bloodstained cross of Calvary not so that we could attain to the perfect standard the law demands and to the Holiness of God, but because we couldn't. If any of us could attain to the glorious state of living a life free of sin Christ died for no reason.

Now here is David's great faith manifested: he is in despair, feels he is about to be killed and that God has forgotten him, yet he ends his prayer with the words, "I will trust in God's steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in His salvation and sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me. David's faith was not dependent upon how he felt on the inside or upon his outward circumstances (good or bad), but upon his understanding of God's love and God's promise of salvation to all who trust in Him and walk faithfully before Him.

Ponder for a moment the majestic beauty of the following Scriptures: -

- God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).
- While we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, how much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life (Romans 5:10).

These are breath-taking statements and should be an overwhelming comfort to every brother and sister of Christ since they carry an astoundingly and perfect example of love and are some of the most splendid and humbling of all Scriptures since they clearly show how much Christ loves us. Paul in the same letter also wrote the following: -

- While we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly (Rom. 5:6).

This means that even though we were full of sinful dysfunctions and aberrations dwelling within our corrupted earthly bodies (i.e., self, ego, pride, greed, lustful thoughts, envy, jealousies, anger and such like things) Christ died for us he laid down his life down to a brutal, bloody and cruel death that we could be made righteous by faith apart from the law, self-effort and works.

In in spite of our corrupted fallen nature that we have inherited from our earthly father Adam God counts our faith in Christ as our righteousness it is imputed to us as a pure and free gift. These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that God loved us long before we loved Him. Though some of us might die for a friend or loved one, Christ died for us while we were ungodly and indifferent to God and His ways and in many cases blasphemers.

Sadly because of a lack of perceiving this great love God has toward us that these verses (and others like them) shine a spotlight on some in the Christian faith tend to determine whether God loves them by their good or bad circumstances. They feel if life is charmed and blessed God loves them, but if it suddenly takes a turn for the worse and trouble comes they feel God has withdrawn his love, but this is superstition and judging God according to the fickle circumstances of this world.

When anyone who believes in Christ doubts God's love all we have to do is look back to the bloodstained cross and see what it cost the heart of the Father to save us and how much his Son suffered to redeem us and spiritually crown and cloth us with a royal and majestic robe of righteousness so that we could be justified and granted eternal life in everlasting glory apart from self-effort and strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days or keeping religious customs

This truth should comfort every faithful brother and sister in Christ since it is certain if God was prepared to sacrifice his Son for us, while we were indifferent and apathetic toward Him and uninterested and unconcerned about what honoured Him and what didn't He will with great joy do everything to keep us for eternal life now we love His Son. (He does this by daily lavishing us with grace)

Sleeping in Christ.

When a person who belongs to Christ dies the Bible says that they have no knowledge and know nothing they are totally unaware of it and are in a perfect state of peace. This state is called sleeping in Christ they have no consciousness, so there is no time. It is very similar to someone in a deep sleep there is no awareness of time, when the person wakes they have no idea of whether four, seven or twelve hours have passed. Likewise because there is no time in death the moment a Christian dies is the moment they are in the Kingdom of God and with the LORD, for them it is instant, even though many years may have passed by in our world's time.

David died thousands of years ago, but the moment he is resurrected will be like the moment he breathed his last breath, because for him there is no awareness of time, so it is for every Christian from death to Christ is instant.

Death to the Christian is similar to a person in a coma: a person in a coma has no consciousness of time, time does not exist to them, when they wake, they often think only a day or so has gone by, when in actual fact several years may have passed yet they think they are waking up, the same day, or next day after they went to sleep. The person in the coma or in death is totally unaware of any time that they have spent in the coma or being dead

Death to those who belong to Christ is much the same as the person in the coma, the dead or those who are sleeping in Christ have absolutely no consciousness of time so for them, the moment they die, is the moment they are instantly with the Lord, even though many years may have passed during the time they have been dead (i.e., sleeping in Christ).

It is the same principal as a person who goes into hospital for an operation: the patient is given an anaesthetic and put to sleep, surgeons cut them up and take body parts out, over the next few hours, yet the patient is totally unaware of it they wake up and have absolutely no idea of the time that has passed, therefore when Paul says, absent from the body, present with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8) it is a true statement, even though a brother or sister in Christ may have spent years sleeping in Christ.

A second reason: the death of a Christian is called sleeping in Christ is because their death is only temporary. Being asleep in Christ means everyone who dies in Christ is kept in the eternal mind and memory of God. Jesus said: -

- Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them falls to the ground without the father knowing it and even the hairs of our head are all numbered therefore we should not fear death because we are of more value than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:29-31).

The entire person (i.e., body, spirit, mind and consciousness) remains sleeping in Christ until the first resurrection (Rom. 20:5). Then, like those who were raised to mortal life after Jesus crucifixion and went to the holy city of God to testify (Matthew 27:50-53) all who are asleep in the Lord are woken up at the blast of the angels trumpet and raised from the dead to immortal life and everlasting glory.

NOTE: some people find it difficult to comprehend God raising the dead, but think of it this way, we have super computers today that have in their memories literally trillions of bits of information and at the touch of a key any one of those bits is resurrected to us on a brightly coloured screen, then with another touch of the key it all vanishes into the super memory and is gone, until we resurrect it again.

Knowing that God has given his creation the mind to be able to build such amazing computers should make it very easy to understand how God keeps us all in His eternal memory waiting for the right time to touch the supernatural keyboard of heaven and raise us once again to life. Added to this very few Christians have any trouble believing God created the universe that we live in so raising the dead in comparison is not such a difficult task for such an awesome, powerful and majestic God (Heb. 11:3).

End.