

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

James 1:12

Store In My Heart

1Thessalonians 4:1

Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.

Shortly after Paul left Thessalonica he sent Timothy back to see how the brethren were doing. They were under heavy persecution by the Jews of that region and he was concerned about their faith. Timothy brought back the report that prompted this letter and it gave Paul much comfort. As this letter mentions several times, they were continuing in the faith. They were living to please God, just as they had been taught.

But note Paul's instruction, "do so more and more." Just living for God was not enough, they must put forth every effort and continue in such a life. We must do the same.



When God Stands Afar Off

Frank Himmel

Psalm 10 opens with the Psalmist asking, *"Why do you stand afar off, O Lord? Why do you hide Yourself in times of trouble?"* We do wonder at times why God doesn't intervene when adversity or injustice occurs. Bible study reveals some answers, yet they may not precisely fit in a given situation.

The remainder of the Psalm reveals three responses when God stands afar off.

The Wicked Run to Evil (vv. 3-11)

The Preacher observed, *"Because the sentence against an evil deed is not executed quickly, therefore the hearts of the sons of men among them are given fully to do evil"* (**Ecclesiastes 8:11**). The Psalmist saw that too. When God doesn't immediately respond to sin, too many decide that He doesn't mean what He says, that they are free to do as they will. Bad proceeds to worse. The sinner is emboldened. *"He says to himself, 'God has forgotten; He has hidden His face; He will never see it'"* (v. 11).

The Afflicted Pray (vv. 12-15)

Victims of oppression seek God's deliverance. He is their only hope. And what a hope He is—*"the helper of the orphan"* (v. 14c). God is often depicted that way (**Exodus**

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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For Our Information

Joyce Venable is back home but still sick and very weak.

JoBeth Henderson is able to put some weight on her leg.

Jerry Henderson spent most of the week sedated on a ventilator Huntsville Hospital CCU. His lungs are clearing and his oxygen levels are good as they start weaning him off the vent.

The Simpson Family is out of town.

Tonight we start in 2Samuel 2:8.

Wednesday at 7 pm in Philippians 1:15.

22:22f; Deuteronomy 10:17f; Hosea 14:3; etc.). Those who seek His help must do more than simply ask; they must commit to Him (**v. 14b**), a commitment to be kept in all times, good and bad.

Please note that in this paragraph the Psalmist never says that he personally was a victim of the trouble he observed. Nevertheless, he prayed earnestly for those who were. The "*afflicted*," then, are not just those who are directly injured; they are also those who sympathize with the victimized. It is those who "*weep with those who weep*" (**Romans 12:15**) and suffer with those who suffer (**1Corinthians 12:26**).

The Righteous Remain Steadfast (vv. 16-18)

Psalm 10 ends on a confident note. The Psalmist may be discouraged, but he is not disheartened. He is resolved. He will remain steadfast. Steadfast in his conviction about God's rule, despite not fully understanding it: "*The Lord is King forever and ever.*" Steadfast in his trust in God's care: "*You have heard the desire of the humble.*" Steadfast in his trust in God's promises: "*You will strengthen their heart, You will incline Your ear to vindicate the orphan and the oppressed.*" And above all, steadfast in His obedience to God's will.

Don't lose your way when a circumstance arises in which God seems to stand afar off. Take your stand with Him and with the Psalmist.

(This article reminds me of some of what we have seen in David during his time hiding from Saul. Several times when all seemed to be lost, David went to God for guidance and help. While it is not the only time, we need to remember that when God seems farthest from our situation is the time for us to take action to draw closer to Him. James reminds us of this in his epistle, "*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*" (**James 4:7-8**) Sorrow, struggle, pain, and loss can leave us feeling as if God has left us alone. It is in those circumstances that we need to start pulling ourselves even closer to Him. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!