

# Steady in the Storm

## Suffering and Pain

Psalm 13

David asks penetrating **questions** vs. 1-2

- ‘How much **longer** will this last?’
- ‘Why are you **hiding** from me?’
- ‘Won’t you help me **figure** this out?’
- ‘Aren’t you on **my side**?’

David **begs** God to act vs. 3-4

- ‘Please **look** at me and **bless** me!’
- ‘Please **respond** to my prayers!’
- ‘**Infuse** me with hope!’
- ‘Don’t let my **enemies** gloat!’

David **resets** his heart vs. 5-6

- ‘I continue to trust Your **goodness**’
- ‘I eagerly anticipate your **deliverance**’
- ‘I will **worship** You today because of your past help’

Auburn Grace Community Church – August 16, 2020

## Life Group Questions – August 16<sup>th</sup> 2020

Psalm 13:1-2 ‘How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever?  
How long will You hide Your face from me?  
How long shall I take counsel in my soul,  
Having sorrow in my heart all the day?  
How long will my enemy be exalted over me?’

### QUICK REVIEW

1. It is safe to say that God allows our life storms. How do these trials build our faith so that we can overcome our fears?
2. Our God is an equipping God, teaching us and preparing us to deal with inevitable life storms. Have you ever felt that God first gave you the test before the lesson? Were you “absent,” in some way, from the lesson when He was first teaching it? Why do you think the lesson was ordered this way?

### MY STORY

1. Have you ever felt forsaken, forgotten by God? Was this negatively reflected in your attitude towards Him (i.e. complaining, impatience, etc.) How was your prayer life affected? What finally chased the gloom away and restored your hope?
2. Describe a burden that you are currently wrestling with. To what extent do you feel like you have surrendered this burden to the Lord? To what extent would you say you are honest with God in prayer?

### GOING DEEP

1. Read Psalm 13:1-2. In these two short verses, David asks God “How long?” four different times. Why is David so impassioned about knowing when he will be delivered from his trial? How can we resolve to not degenerate into impatience when we don’t know the duration of a long, arid season?
2. **Read Psalm 13:3-4. Is there a discernable shift that you notice in David’s prayer? Explain.**
3. Read Psalm 13:5-6. Compare and contrast David’s heart-felt prayer in these verses to vv. 1-2. How did this change happen? What important lesson(s) can we glean from the differences in David’s prayer?
4. One of your Life Group members may be presently dealing with a significant life storm. As a group, brainstorm a strategy where they can purposefully live above their circumstance. Help them how to discover a fresh perspective though the situation doesn’t change.

### PUTTING IT TOGETHER:

1. What do you think are some of the challenges to living out each point?
2. Which of the above teaching points are most important for **you** to remember?

# Steady in the Storm

## Part 2 - Suffering and Pain

### Sources of Suffering:

- |  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Dark <b><u>spiritual</u></b> forces; <b><u>Satan</u></b> , demons             | Luke 13:11-13   |
| 2. <b><u>Fallen</u></b> physical world and bodies; sickness and disease          | Romans 8:20-23  |
| 3. Choices of <b><u>others</u></b> ; ancestors, evil people, accidents, pushback | Matthew 5:11-12 |

### Suffering is **NOT**...

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Suffering is NOT <b><u>unknown</u></b> to Jesus Himself...        | Isaiah 53:1-12                |
| 2. Suffering is NOT as <b><u>lonely</u></b> as it feels              |                               |
| a. <b><u>Others</u></b> suffer as you do                             | Proverbs                      |
| b. All of <b><u>creation</u></b> groans in suffering                 | Romans 8:20-22                |
| c. God <b><u>sustains</u></b> those who suffer                       | Psalms 54:4, 55:22            |
| 3. Suffering is NOT the <b><u>punishment</u></b> of God on your life | Matthew 4:23-24; Luke 4:14-21 |
| a. Suffering is NOT the <b><u>rejection</u></b> of God               |                               |
| b. Suffering is NOT the <b><u>displeasure</u></b> of God             |                               |
| 4. Suffering is NOT a <b><u>fruitless</u></b> path                   |                               |
| a. <b><u>Jesus</u></b> Himself = suffering to glory                  | Philippians 2:8-11, 3:20-4:1  |
| b. <b><u>God's</u></b> People = suffering to glory                   | Matthew 5:11-12               |

### Suffering **IS**...

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Suffering is a <b><u>refining</u></b> tool                              | Isaiah 48:10               |
| 2. Suffering is a profound <b><u>connection</u></b> point                  |                            |
| a. To <b><u>God</u></b>  | Job 42:5                   |
| b. To <b><u>others</u></b> who suffer                                      | 2 Corinthians 1:3-5        |
| 3. Suffering is a <b><u>mysterious</u></b> intruder but part of God's plan | Job 38-42                  |
| 4. Suffering is <b><u>rewarded</u></b>                                     |                            |
| a. Here and now = grace and maturity                                       | 2 Cor. 12:7-9; James 1:2-4 |
| b. In heaven = crown of righteousness                                      | Rev. 21:3-5                |
| 5. Suffering is soothed by <b><u>sacrifice</u></b>                         | 2 Corinthians 1:3-5        |
| a. Finding space to <b><u>serve</u></b> others                             |                            |
| b. Pressing into <b><u>God's</u></b> comfort                               |                            |
| c. Being <b><u>thankful</u></b> for the positives                          |                            |

Resources: Psalm 13, 34, 55.

Books to read:

'***If God is Good***' by Randy Alcorn

'***Suffering and the Goodness of God***' by Christopher Morgan and Robert Peterson