

WHEN GOD IS SLOW TO KEEP HIS PROMISE

PSALM 119:81-88

Introduction:

Welcome to the real world of faith! In the real world of faith God may seem to be slow and forgetful. This has been the painful experience of many who have faithfully trod the path of faith. What you see in your life and what you see in the word may seem to contradict each other.

This is the phase of life that the young psalmist found himself in. Even though his knowledge of God and His word were real, in the real world life was not easy. His enemies were relentless in their attempts to destroy him.

He was at the point that he felt like an old wineskin that had hung in the smoke for years—dry, shriveled and useless. He found himself crying out, “When will you comfort me, O Lord?”

Your circumstances may be different, but does your real world feel like the real world of the young poet? Do you have problem understanding why God seems to be slow or forgetful? Are you wondering, “What can I do? Have I missed something?”

The New Bible Commentary has some helpful notes on this stanza, though they are very brief. The writer caught three helpful words for the person who

finds himself at the end of his rope. They might guide you in a moment like this one.

I. WHEN GOD IS SLOW TO KEEP HIS PROMISE, PRAY.

1. Remind God of His promise.

“My soul languishes for thy salvation; I wait for thy word.”

“My eyes fail with longing for thy word.”

2. Express your need.

“Help me!”

“Revive me according to thy loving kindness.”

When you are the end of your rope, it should be a place of persistent prayer.

Jesus taught that men ought always to pray and not to faint. (Luke 18:1)

II. WHEN GOD IS SLOW TO KEEP HIS PROMISE, HOPE.

1. God may be slow but He is never late.

“I hope on Your word.” NASV translates it, “I wait for Thy word.”

2. You are being tried not God.

3. Hope is standing on His promise when all else has failed.

III. WHEN GOD IS SLOW TO KEEP HIS PROMISE, OBEY.

1. When He seems to have forgotten, don't forget His statutes.

“I do not forget Thy statutes.”

2. When He seems to be late, do not forsake His precepts.

“But as for me, I did not forsake Thy precepts.”

Matthew Henry wrote, “If true religion is worth anything, it is worth everything.” If it is true and worthwhile when everything is going well, it is still worthwhile when God seems to have forsaken you.