

PRAYING YOUR WAY THROUGH DOUBT

PSALM 13

Introduction:

We had an expression in the old days that spoke of “praying through.”

Praying through was understood to be prevailing prayer. You prayed until the burden was lifted.

David bears testimony in this Psalm to the wisdom of praying through. The years of fleeing from Saul were taking their toll on his spiritual life. He was beginning to doubt the goodness of the Lord. But he fought off this attack of doubt with this prayer.

I. YOU PRAY THROUGH BY BEING HONEST ABOUT YOUR DOUBTS.

1. Doubt is personal.

“Will you forget me forever?” “How long shall I take counsel in my soul, having sorrow in my heart daily?”

2. Doubt is spiritual.

“How long will you hide your face from me?”

3. Doubt is circumstantial.

“How long will my enemy be exalted over me?”

II. YOU PRAY THROUGH BY ASKING GOD FOR HELP.

1. You ask for His ear.

“Consider and hear me, O LORD my God.”

2. You ask for understanding.

“Enlighten my eyes.”

3. You ask for vindication.

“Lest my enemy say, ‘I have prevailed against him.’ Lest those who trouble me rejoice when I am moved.”

III. YOU PRAY THROUGH TO RENEWED TRUST IN THE LORD.

Prayer may not change your circumstances, but it will change the way you see your circumstances. It will open your eyes to your true situation.

1. You renew your reliance upon His mercy.

“But I have trusted in your mercy.” Mercy is hesed—the steadfast love and loyalty of the Lord. It is His loyalty to His covenant promises. In your doubts you forget the mercy of the Lord. Prayer will open your eyes to the unchanging reality—God is good and merciful.

2. You rejoice in His salvation.

“My heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the Lord.” This is a prayer of someone who has already known God’s saving mercy. They know the reality of what it means to be saved. Their circumstances may be dark

and threatening, but they are saved. This will give you a song in the night of the soul.

3. You remember His blessings.

“I will sing to the Lord, because He has dealt bountifully with me.” The present pain does not cancel out the past blessings. David had known the blessings of the Lord—the blessings of a good family, the anointing from the hand of Samuel, the victory over Goliath and a hundred more. When he began to pray, his memory was opened to these blessings.

David prayed through to hope, joy, faith, and victory. You can prevail in prayer.