



pursuing the presence of **GOD**

When God Hides His Face

Main Text: Psalm 13

This weekend, Pastor Jonathan talked about the movement of Psalm 13 between complaint, petition, and thanksgiving. This is a Psalm for those who are not presently experiencing the presence of God, and who are presently facing threats, challenges, and fears. God's absence in the moment of deep need implicates Him in the problem itself because he is allowing it. Rather than offering theological answers about why bad things happen to good people, the psalmist offers us a pattern of how to move through this in our relationship with God: Complaint; petition; thanksgiving.

Questions:

- What is your initial reaction to this Psalm?
- Have you ever had an experience of God hiding his face from you? Please share.
- Verses 1-2 of the psalm are a complaint to God. Do you ever complain to God? If so, do you feel that this is a legitimate form of faith or something coming from weakness or sin?
- What is the difference between legitimate complaint, and illegitimate complaining?
- Verses 3-4 of the psalm are a petition to God voiced in the imperative (command) tense. Are you able to express your pain to God clearly and forcefully? Why or why not?
- Verses 5-6 are an expression of thanksgiving to God, even before God has acted to solve the problem. How can we do this without being fake or putting on a face with God?