



How long, Lord?

Psalm 13:1 - How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?

In college, I was in a traveling drama ministry. We were doing a play based on the missionaries that would eventually make the movie, *The End of the Spear*. We traveled two weekends a month for the year. It was a great experience.

We were in New London, Iowa and staying with someone that would later be a close friend. After playing pool until midnight, we went to our cars. Because we had to lock up the house, we had to turn off the porch light. When we did I experienced the darkest dark. It was so dark, you could feel it. A darkness that feels like it wraps you up so tight you struggle to take a breath.

Has your soul ever been there? That place where you read the Bible but see nothing. When your prayers don't seem to penetrate the ceiling. Even the moon and stars don't show. You pray and pray but see and hear nothing. Worse yet, the louder you scream, the less you hear from God. Everything inside you tightens as you look to the sky and beg, "Show yourself God!"

Nothing.

Is He gone? Taking a break? Has He "gone fishing?" That's what it seems. You give your life to Him and then He bails. Why? What did you do? Maybe your baptism didn't work. "Where are You, God? How long will You stay hidden? What happened to 'never forsaken'?"

Back to Iowa. Within less than 3 seconds, my friend found the porchlight switch. Light immediately flooded the darkness with light. We could see everything. The truck, the yard, even the basketball goal. To be honest, if it wasn't so intensely dark, we (as men) would've tried to scoot through the darkness. Really, we would've. But the dark was so immediate and intense, the first thing we did was find the light.

Maybe that's the point. The light was always there, but we didn't think we needed it. We had to see and feel a darkness that made us reach for it. The light. Light that was always there.

The darkness does not mean God is gone. In fact, He is never closer than when you are in the darkness. So why the darkness? To always point us to the Light. To look and search for it. So stop stumbling, trying to make it on your own. The Light is right there. Find it. Find Him.

From My Heart,

Billy