


A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a human eye. The iris is a deep, fiery red-orange color. In the center of the iris, there is a black silhouette of a grave with three crosses of varying heights. The eye is looking slightly to the right. The background is a soft, out-of-focus orange and yellow glow.

**Enlighten My Eyes, Psalms 13:1-6**

## Enlighten My Eyes

- Scratched onto the wall of a German concentration camp during World War two were these lines

A photograph of a prison cell. The walls are made of rough, textured concrete. In the center of the wall, there is a large, circular, metallic sign with a brushed metal finish. The sign contains a handwritten-style quote. Below the sign, there are two metal bed frames with mattresses and pillows, facing each other. A small wooden table is positioned between the beds. The lighting is dim, with a single light fixture visible on the right wall.

I believe in the sun  
even when its not shining.  
I believe in love  
even when I don't feel it.  
I believe in God  
even when He is silent.  
anonymous

## Enlighten My Eyes

- In the midst of the horror, someone declared their faith in the God that did not answer the way they thought He would
  - Their faith in the supreme God that did not seem to answer at all
- When life is easy, we all find it easy to rest in the Lord
  - I can easily trust in the God of comfort and ease
  - But when life is challenging many of us find ourselves challenging ourselves and God –
    - “Why have you treated me this way God?”
    - “Where did you go God?”
    - What have I done to silence you in my life God?

## Enlighten My Eyes

- In those times resting in the Lord becomes more like wrestling with the Lord
- What is the answer?
  - Where do we turn in the dark coldness of silence?
    - We turn to the same place we found light and warmth in the past, we turn to God's Word

## Scripture – Psalm 13

- **Psalm 13:1-6 NIV**, 1 How long, Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? 2 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart? How long will my enemy (*seem to*) triumph over me?
  - 3 Look on me and answer, Lord my God. Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep in death, 4 and my enemy will say, “I have overcome him,” and my foes will rejoice (*be lifted up, praised*) when I fall.
  - 5 But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. 6 I will sing the Lord’s praise, for he has been good to me.

## Enlighten My Eyes

- Charles Spurgeon, “Whenever you look into David’s Psalms, you may somewhere or another see yourselves. You never get into a corner but you find David in that corner. I think that I was never so low that I could not find that David was lower; and I never climbed so high that I could not find that David was up above me, ready to sing his song upon his stringed instrument, even as I could sing mine.”
  - If there was anyone who could speak to the darkness, hollowness, the emptiness that comes into our lives it is King David
  - If there was anyone who could speak to the failures in our lives and God bringing them back it is King David
  - Instead of hiding his distress he put voice to it in the Psalms
  - And he puts voice to his period of distress in our Scriptures this morning

## What is the question David is asking God this morning?

- “How long?”
  - David asked this question four times in **verses 1-2**
    - How long, Lord, will you forget about me
    - How long will you hide your face from me
    - How long must I wrestle with my thoughts
    - How long will my enemy (*seem to*) triumph over me?
  - It speaks of a very intense desire for deliverance, and great anguish of heart



## What is the question David is asking God this morning?

- It is not easy to prevent desire from degenerating into impatience
  - Often, we grow weary under the simple length of our trials
  - We feel we could endure almost anything if we knew when it will end
  - Yet sometimes we are tried under times that make us cry out, “How long or Will it ever end or Is this what my life is now to be?”

## What is the question David is asking God this morning?

- It is not easy to prevent desire from degenerating into impatience
  - How long before I can hear your voice in my spirit again?
  - How long before your Word speaks to my heart again?
  - How long before there is joy in my worship of You again?
  - Will You forget me and hide from me forever?
- The pain in David's heart came from a sense, feeling that God had forgotten him, and that God was distancing Himself from him

## What is the question David is asking God this morning?

- No doubt, David had faced worse circumstances but had faced them more bravely when he had sensed the presence of God with him
  - Yet now, feeling distant from God, it did not take much to send David into despair
- Has God forgotten about David?
  - Of course not, God did not forget David – but David felt like it
  - God did not hide His face from David – but David felt like it

## What is the question David is asking God this morning?

- When we have such strong feelings like this, then the feelings create their own reality
  - David felt God had forgotten him, and felt God was hiding
  - So, in a sense, it was true for David – but true according to feelings, not according to fact
- There is a balance in life when it comes to feelings
  - Some people ignore feelings and think that feelings should have nothing to do with our relationship with God
    - God has given us feelings as an expression of His image in us
  - On the other side, some live their lives ruled by feelings
    - They believe whatever reality their feelings present them

## What is the question David is asking God this morning?

- When we have such strong feelings, then the feelings create their own reality
  - The problem with this is that though we have feelings because we are made in the image of God, our feelings can be affected by our fallenness
  - We can't fully or completely trust our feelings
- It was all right for David to feel these feelings, and good to take them to God, but he should never accept the reality of feelings as "real" reality
- So, what was David's question?
  - How long?
  - So, what was David's answer to his distress?

## David's answer to his distress was to try harder

- **Vs. 2 NIV**, 2 How long must I wrestle with my thoughts and day after day have sorrow in my heart?
  - David is wrestling with his own thoughts
  - **ESV**, How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day?
- No wonder David was discouraged!
  - Taking counsel in his own head and soul had led him to sorrow in his heart daily

## David's answer to his distress was to try harder

- When I am discouraged and depressed, the answer is not in looking inside myself, but in looking to the Lord
  - Many times, when I am confronted with problems, I find this to be true:
    - The more I think about the problems, the more depressed I get
    - Thinking about our troubles is hard work
    - But when I pray about the problems, a glorious sense of release and peace comes when I can leave it at God's throne
- So, how did David combat the distress in his life?

## David desired to be obedient to the whisper of my God's presence

- David understands where he is at and how his thinking is not good
  - He also understands he needs God's help to overcome this thinking
  - **Vs. 3 NKJV**, "Consider and hear me, O Lord my God; Enlighten (*give your light to*) my eyes"
    - Enlighten in Hebrew – To come to a knowledge or grasp of the truth
- I need to understand the real reason behind this distress in my life
  - What is the real cause that is bringing this distress
  - What is the real reason I feel distress in my heart
  - I need to see my distress from your perspective God



## David desired to be obedient to the whisper of my God's presence

- I can hear God asking David questions in his heart and mind
  - Have I ever failed to love you, David?
  - Is your salvation real and solid, David? Have I forgiven you, David?
  - Have I been good to you, David?
  - Then David
    - **Psalm 46:10 NIV**, “Be still, and *(in the stillness you will)* know that I am God”

## David desired to be obedient to the whisper of my God's presence

- Even when heaven is silent, the Word of God speaks
  - **Psalm 119:130 NIV**, The unfolding of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple
  - On more than one occasion when God was silent, I found myself drawn to **Romans 8:28 NIV**, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”
  - And **Romans 8:18 NIV**, “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.”
  - In the cold silence I found warmth in the light of His Word

## David desired to be obedient to the whisper of my God's presence

- What is David's response?
  - **Vs. 5-6 NIV**, 5 But I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation. 6 I will sing the Lord's praise, for he has been good to me.
- Have David's circumstances really changed at this point?
  - No, but in David's heart and mind a path has been laid out for him
    - I will choose to quiet the voices of discouragement in me
    - I will choose to trust in your unfailing love for me
    - I will choose to rejoice in your salvation for me
    - I will choose to sing the Lord's praise
    - I will choose to remember God is always good to His children in which I am one

## Enlighten My Eyes

- King David, a man after God's own heart, needed a spiritual reset
  - He was also a man after our own heart
  - His focus and his feelings were off true center
  - Instead of focusing on what he did not have, he turned his focus to all that comes from being a child of God
- When you find yourself here, listen to God's voice saying to you
  - Have I ever failed to love you?
  - Is your salvation real and solid? Have I forgiven you?
  - Have I been good to you?

## Enlighten My Eyes

- Then remember, **Psalm 46:10 NIV**, “Be still, and know that I am God”
  - This is not just singing songs of praise to change our feelings
  - This is truth to take you through whatever this life throws at you
  - We need our eyes enlightened and only God can do this through the truth of His Word

## Enlighten My Eyes

Open The Eyes Of My Heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord  
Open the eyes of my heart  
I want to see You  
I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up  
Shinin' in the light of Your glory  
Pour out Your power and love  
As we sing holy, holy, holy

Holy, holy, holy  
Holy, holy, holy  
You are holy, holy, holy  
I want to see you

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