

PRAYING PSALM 13

“How long...” (Psalm 13:1).

It is OK to start prayer with a question. David did, and he kept asking. David had probably been making a particular request and not receiving an answer. You will go through times when prayers aren't answered as you expect. Technically, God always answers prayer, but not always as you might hope for. When the request is not right God says “No.” When the timing is not right God says “Slow.” When you are not right God says “Grow.” When everything is right God says “Go.”

“How long?” David asked that four times in the first two verses. 1. How long will you forget me? That is a perfectly normal question when we are not getting an answer. 2. How long will you hide your face from me? David could have been wondering if there was unacknowledged sin in his life. God hides his face when we need to confess and repent (II Chronicles 7:14). 3. How long shall I take counsel in my soul? In the concluding verses of Psalm 139, David said, “Search me O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me...” Prayer is a good time to question yourself before God. 4. How long will my enemy exalt himself over me? When that happens, God is often wanting to teach us something. After praying that his enemies would not prevail against him (3-4), David trusted in three things: In God's mercy (another chance), in God's salvation (grace), in God's goodness (integrity). When you question God in prayer, the answer may lead you to something you already know and need to be reminded of. Sometimes the question will lead you to search your heart before God.