

## PSALMS OF PRAYER AND PRAISE

### Psalm 13:1-6 (NASB)

<sup>1</sup> **How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever?** How long will You hide Your face from me?

<sup>2</sup> How long shall I take counsel in my soul, *Having* sorrow in my heart all the day? How long will my enemy be exalted over me?

<sup>3</sup> Consider *and* answer me, O LORD my God; Enlighten my eyes, or I will sleep the *sleep of death*,

<sup>4</sup> And my enemy will say, “I have overcome him,” *And* my adversaries will rejoice when I am shaken.

<sup>5</sup> But I have trusted in Your lovingkindness; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.

<sup>6</sup> I will sing to the LORD, Because He has dealt bountifully with me.

### Psalm 13: Distress and Confidence

“*How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?*” These words of David are those of a servant of God tried by persecution. To him it seemed that he had been forgotten and forsaken by God. He was pouring out the agony of his soul in prayer. It was a long and weary struggle. He was wrestling with despair. He cried out, “**How long?**” Such experiences are not unusual in the history of God’s people. David is writing honestly about what many experience, circumstances which seem almost too much to bear. It is very appropriate to be honest and transparent in our relationship with God.

David says in [verse 4](#), “*I am shaken*” with the Hebrew meaning “**losing roots, tottering on the brink of a cliff.**” Many can identify with this feeling. How wonderful that the psalmist centuries ago could write the words we often cannot find to express our situation before God. The Bible is current and relevant to God’s people in all ages.

This psalm teaches the precious truth that God’s trusting children will survive every affliction with a song of praise. We know from past experience that God has shown mercy and can trust He will save us. We may not know how or when and often never why certain circumstances come our way, but we can be confident in God. He will make the trials of life yield the fruit of a purer and stronger faith, a greater and richer joy in God and greater confidence in His blessed promises. My role is to trust God to do for me what I cannot do for myself; His role is to take care of me.

The last verses of this psalm express joyous anticipation. Although the storm might continue to rage, there was peace in David’s heart. We can turn our eyes upward, not inward, and rejoice in God’s bountiful dealings with us. We receive undeserved love and care even when we are not aware. It is often only in hindsight that we realize God’s provision for our lives. This is the time to sing unto the Lord, thanking Him for all He has done as well as depending on Him for the future.