

How long O Lord?

Psalms 13:1-2 (NRSV) ¹ How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
² How long must I bear pain^E in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

It is always so good that the saints have recorded their fears, their desolation, the pain, the sorrow, the crisis of faith within the unchanging word of God. And what a consolation these words are to our souls, when our hearts are troubled, when we feel left out, hunted, rejected and humiliated.

David did not bottle up his fear, but he poured it out to the Lord. He asks his God, “Lord have you forgotten me Lord? How long O Lord? O this long night of the soul seems unending? “ In another psalm he fearfully sings,

Psalms 77:7-9 (NRSV) ⁷ “Will the Lord spurn forever,
and never again be favorable?
⁸ Has his steadfast love ceased forever?
Are his promises at an end for all time?
⁹ Has God forgotten to be gracious?
Has he in anger shut up his compassion?”
Selah

David is so thoroughly disillusioned that he is even sceptical whether it was all true, the favour of the Lord, His steadfast love, His eternal promises, His grace and even His compassion

The greatness of David is that in his pain, joy , sinfulness, despair he always turned to God. He did not seek the shoulders of friends to weep.

Even when his faith was rocking, even when he thought may be this faith and trust in God is all a figment of my imagination, he still wrote that as a song to God.

He did not down his pain with a pint of beer. He did not burrow himself in the anonymity of social networking sites. But he knew to take it to the Lord and sure enough he was comforted.

David faced his pain, his outlawed condition, his hunger, his weakness and brought it all before God, poured it out before the Lord. Today our biggest problem is that we do not face the deep trauma/pain of our heart. We push them deep into our hearts thinking as long as I don't confront my pain, I'll be fine. But you know when the pain is buried in your heart it slowly takes root and one day will fill your heart with its bitter fruit.

God is our healer whatever the pain is. Jesus who has been through it all knows all the pain and He is enough to heal us as we take it to Him in prayer.

Today in the name of sharing most often we end up in bigger complications than we were initially in. If only we would take it to the Lord, what a blessing the pain would become!

Let's see how David ends his songs of lament and despair. Both these songs 13 and 77, end not with what he feels about God, but his assurance about the unchangeable character of God. He says in Psalm 13, even when I feel God takes a long long time to come to my rescue, that he trusts in the steadfast unchanging love of God and in His salvation.

Psalms 13:5-6 (NRSV) ⁵ But I trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
⁶ I will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

In Psalm 77 after his very faithless lament he chides himself and says, " Oh this is my weakness, but let me remember all his goodness in my life."

Psalms 77:10-12 (KJV) ¹⁰ And I said, *This is my infirmity: but I will remember* the years of the right hand of the most High.
I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old.
¹² I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.

David looks to the anchor of his faith and do not trust on his faith which is very flimsy and sways like a reed in the wind.

Friends sometimes it is not wrong to lament and weep, but let us take that to our God, who alone can comfort us and lead us in the ways of righteousness. Let us not weep in wrong shoulders and make more mess out of the mess that is there right now.

Take it all to the Lord in Prayer.

Listen to this song if you can. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v= AT7wa0tPVU>